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MOBIL OFFICIAL REVIEWS DECISION NOT TO EXPLOIT OFFSHORE OIL

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 11 Feb 83 p 14

[Text]

MOBIL Oil Exploration Limited did not exploit the offshore potential of Barbados because the indicated reserves were not big enough to justify the investment.

Brian Westgate, who was in charge of Mobil's operation here, told THE NATION that the investment would have been about \$100 - \$200 million.

According to him one such reserve showed a potential for about five to ten million barrels. But he noted that this was only an indication. "There was no guarantee and there could never have been," he said.

He added that there was a 25 to 50 percent chance of success, which was not bad since wells were drilled all over the world with that chance ratio.

"But the reserve was not big enough to justify the investment," he added.

Westgate said that drilling in 350 feet of water, a reserve of between 20 and 25 million barrels of oil could be justifiable.

He spoke of another potential offshore reserve which, according to him, is about half way between St. Vincent and Barbados. But he said that it would have needed about 100 million barrels to be economical for Mobil while indications were that it contained about 15 to 20 million barrels.

Of the onshore seismic data, Westgate said that the formation of the island made interpretation difficult. He noted that the company in order to look for an attractive reserve which would interest it, then carried out a programme of drilling eight wells each about 11 000 feet deep.

"Everyone was a real teaser. They showed promising signs and we always felt that we were getting closer to the big one; but we never got it," he said.

He explained that 10 000 feet the formation was densely compact but the oil did not flow while in the shallow well at about 6 000 feet, the flow was good but the reserves were limited.

In view of this finding, Mobil restarted the shallow well programme at Woodbourne in 1982. Westgate said this sort of drilling had high probability of success but shallow drilling was a marginal type of operation.

"It is not what we were looking for. It is not a large enough operation to interest a company like Mobil," he said.

Of the future, he said that perhaps there was another 50-50 chance that there was another Woodbourne somewhere else in Barbados; but the company was looking for something bigger than Woodbourne.

He said that Woodbourne would probably last another 20 years or maybe longer but not at the same potential rate.

He added that about another 50 wells could be dug at the oilfields and this would prolong the field's life.

He noted that the oil field was more important to Barbados than it would be to a company like Mobil and explained that the operation could be marginally economic or could just break even; but even if it broke even Barbados would win anyway because it would mean that less foreign reserves would be spent and the country could also become self-sufficient.

On the US\$12 million sale of Mobil's assets, Westgate said that the deal was fair. He noted that Barbados benefitted since the take-over allowed the island to have infrastructure, staff and most other things in place, and Mobil benefitted because it was able to sail the operation.

UNION SAYS TRINTOC LOST MONEY IN DEAL WITH TEXACO

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] SAN FERNANDO--MR ERROL MC LEON, Vice-President of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, claimed yesterday that Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc) had already lost about \$75 million "because of the type of arrangement made by Government with Texaco" to refine crude oil at Texaco Pointe-a-Pierre refinery.

Mr Mc Leod made the statement at the Pointe-a-Pierre roundabout during a mid-day placard demonstration by monthly and weekly-paid workers of Texaco Trinidad Inc.

The OWTU officer also alleged that Texaco was using its own tankers to transport crude oil from Trintoc to Pointe-a-Pierre "and that was bringing additional burden of the taxpayers of this country."

That crude could be "piped" along exciting lines which would cut down heavy cost but that was not being done said Mr Mc Leod.

The workers held the demonstration to protest proposed retrenchment by Texaco through reduction of the retirement age from 65 to 60 years, among other things.

Mr Mc Leod said if Texaco wanted the workers to go voluntarily, the company must "make the kind of offer" which would encourage people to leave.

He told the gathering that the OWTU had already started a contingency plan aimed at running the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery "because we must keep that refinery going."

On the question of finding markets for petroleum products, Mr Mc Leod referred to the Caricom Governments and said that Government had not been dealing with the region projecting Trinidad and Tobago as an oil-producing country.

Trinidad and Tobago Government gave loans to other Caricom countries yet some of those countries were going to other countries to negotiate for oil, he said.

Mr Mc Leod said that more than 3,300 workers in Trinidad and Tobago had already been dismissed or retrenched because of recession. The treasury was losing because those workers were now unable to pay taxes.

He said that the union was organising a Southern Day of Solidarity to be held in mid-March and has appealed to all workers and supporters to come out in their numbers with their wives and children.

Officials of Trintoc and Texaco could not be contacted for comment about the \$75 million loss statement.

CSO: 3298/400

ST LUCIA'S COMPTON STRESSES EXPORTS FOR CARIBBEAN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Feb 83 p 3

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

CASTRIES, Mon:

CARICOM countries must export or perish, according to Saint Lucia's Prime Minister, Mr. John Compton.

He drew attention to this at the formal opening of the meeting of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada.

Mr. Compton said: "The Caribbean thrives on trade and because of the smallness of our domestic market — the Caricom notwithstanding — we must export or perish."

Canada, he said which "has for decades permitted free trade with the Commonwealth Caribbean, can best assist us by continuing to hold the line against protectionism which is threatening world trade and which is threatening the small but important advances made through industrialisation."

Mr. Compton chaired the two-day conference attended by leaders of 16 countries (15 Caribbean and Canada).

Trinidad and Tobago is being represented by a delegation headed by Prime Minister George Chambers.

Accent at opening addresses was placed on Canada's relationship with the region.

SYMPATHETIC USE

Mr. Compton said that unless heed was paid to the needs of the Caribbean, "the human suffering may well bring in its wake the political instability which we all struggle to avoid."

He said that the role of Canada in that regard was not at the level of the aid which was provided, "but even more important must be the judicious and sympathetic use of her not insubstantial influence in the councils of the world to secure ready and enlightened responses from other industrialised countries to the current crisis."

Mr. Compton added:

"In the Caribbean, we are becoming increasingly concerned at the negative responses of the major industrialised nations to this crisis. More and more nations are retreating behind the barriers of protectionism, pulling up their drawbridges and hope that the storm clouds of global recession will go away."

"But this evil which has caused so much human suffering will not go away unless bold initiatives are taken, leading to the freeing of trade, the demolition of tariff barriers and the liberalisation of investment credit."

He said: "In our endeavours to transform and modernise our economies, the Caribbean needs trade and investment in order to mobilise the few resources which we have, and to permit us to take advantage of the opportunities available to us under a free trade regime, of our geographical proximity to, and historical and trading links with North America."

The Prime Minister went on: "The Caribbean peoples fervently believe that with aid for infrastructural development, and with market opportunities, they can by their own efforts remove themselves from the bondage of poverty, underdevelopment and dependency which for too long has been their sad and undeserved lot."

He said Canada-Caribbean co-operation was perhaps the oldest in any regional groupings and was indeed the forerunner of many initiatives which were very current in international affairs.

Decades before the Caribbean Basin Initiative was conceived, he said, Canada had opened her doors to the duty free entry of some 90 per cent of the goods imported from the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Mr. Compton said: "The Canadian aid programme has contributed to the provision of the physical and social infrastructure upon which many of our countries have sought to modernise the economies."

DAILY CRITICIZES BIGNONE'S NEW DELHI SPEECH

PY150000 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Mar 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Radical Changes in Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The president's speech in New Delhi represents such a radical change in the foreign policy position that Argentina has upheld in recent years that it would be difficult to find a similar situation in any previous government. Important countries of the world--and even those that are not so important--are usually more careful in this regard and even new government teams or new government parties strive to make the consequent changes in international policy in a different fashion and at a different pace.

As President Bignone has clearly stated--no one can say that he was not clear--as of now Argentina is definitely within the ideological, political and economic framework of the north and the south and it has stopped being within the east-west framework. Within this new framework old, well-known personalities have also drastically changed their position since our enemies are now our friends--or at least good neighbors--or at least personalities with whom we shall not refrain from sharing pleasant evenings and meetings.

These are the facts or better what has been said. Undoubtedly nothing could have been the same for Argentina regarding international relations after the Malvinas. Therefore, no one can honestly ignore what happened, who was on our side during critical periods and who opposed us. However, we wonder whether this explains and justifies the drastic and radical changes that were announced in New Delhi; and whether the consequences have been evaluated and if the advantages and disadvantages of these changes have been analyzed.

Suddenly, Argentina has adopted a language that is foreign to its best traditions, traditions that have granted Argentina a proper place in international forums since the last century. We wonder what is the objective of these new changes and what will be the steps that will follow. It is not easy to step back once a course has been set. A statement leads to another, a commitment generates another commitment, a new friendship means new friends and the same would happen if the situation is the other way around. If what has just happened in New Delhi marks a new trend that will be followed without any variations, there are very serious questions that must be raised about Argentina's role in the next 20 years.

In principle, General Bignone's presence at the nonaligned summit meeting was clearly linked to the campaign to recover the Malvinas, that is, the objective of resorting to all possible diplomatic channels to achieve an irrevocable and undisputed objective. Some argue that in view of this objective our attitude in New Delhi could not have been any different than the one that was adopted. But the conclusion is not that simple, since international relations in particular cannot be focused on a piece-meal bases and the life and destiny of a country cannot be based on a single viewpoint of a problem, no matter how serious and important this problem may be.

If this were the case, it is because of the Malvinas issue that we have harshly condemned South Africa and threatened Israel, although the president has based the position in this regard by invoking an old argument that is only valid in the sense that Argentina has always condemned any position based on racism and has always defended the right of all the people of the world to have a place on earth, but it did not make any kind of alliance for this reason.

In the first speech he delivered representing Latin America, President Bignone preferred to adopt a protocol role instead of adopting a specific regional position. Therefore, he fulfilled a routine protocol task which consisted in greeting the incoming president of the assembly and he outgoing president, that is Indira Gandhi and Fidel Castro. But although this speech could have eased the justified irritation that some, who still believe that freedom and democracy are not negotiable, felt over Bignone's paragraph [praising Fidel Castro] the statement he issued during the press conference, in which he even admitted that because of protocol reasons and the peaceful coexistence of nations, he exchanged some friendly words with well-known leaders of international subversion, caused great astonishment in our country.

In his second speech, Bignone did not leave without mentioning anything that could have satisfied the general consensus of the nonaligned group. In sum: the price that Argentina has paid at the meeting for a not very hearty support and for the mere holding of "negotiations" between Great Britain and our country with the objective of solving the Malvinas issues as extremely high and even excessive, but there is an even more delicate issue, with the future impace of this position. It deals with knowing where this position that has just been drafted will lead us.

It will not be the first time in the history of peoples and nations that the struggle for a cause will end up badly because of irrational positions.

It is not the worth of the Malvinas cause that we are questioning here. What we are pointing out here is the worth of the cause of the republic.

CS0: 3348/265

POLITICAL LEADERS REACT TO BIGNONE'S NAM SUMMIT SPEECH

PY162345 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] President Bignone's recent speech at the nonaligned conference continues to be the cause of different reactions among political sectors.

Deolindo Felipe Bittel, vice president of the justicialist party board, said that he was "really shocked" by General Bignone's attitude. He said that "although it is unbelievable, after 7 years of persecution, after the imprisonments, the unjust and inhuman sentence of Mrs Peron, the Argentine president has raised the banner of a third ideological position, the same banner that General Peron raised many years ago to the Argentine people and to the world."

He noted that consequently "justicialism is succeeding because these are the banners of General Peron."

Ambassador Gustavo Figueroa, chief of the foreign minister's cabinet, said that "General Bignone's speech was not a Peronist speech. It is a nationalist speech because he spoke for the good of the nation." He noted that "since 2 April the situation has changed for Argentina. We need allies, we have to seek new allies; we do not have to be the puppets of great powers." Regarding Bignone's meeting with the PLO leader, he noted: Has not the Pope met with 'Arafat? He added that "what is happening here is that a national issue is being handled as international policy. I believe that Mr Castro has about as many things in common with Argentina as we do with a zoo. I believe it is very difficult to understand this. But, Castro also plays the game of high politics just like we do. Right now we need his support, because we need to reassert the Malvinas issue throughout the diplomatic field."

Former Finance Secretary Juan Alemann said that "Argentine terrorist activity was supported and introduced by Fidel Castro and 'Arafat. When they made an attempt on my life they used a gun that the Palestinians use and the person that shot me was trained in Palestine." He noted that "the friendly attitude that our president has shown to these sinister characters has not been well-received in Argentina, not only among civilians but also within the armed forces. The support granted to the creation of a Palestine state was not well received since nobody wants it."

Presidential candidate Raul Alfonsin said that Argentina must adopt the position defined in New Delhi "as a permanent position. It must be a position that will allow Argentina to play a specific role in the nonaligned movement, in the Third World and in the south, so that together we can achieve a better and more just world." He noted that "this position was not decided by this government but by previous constitutional governments supported by the majority of the people."

Oscar Camillon, former foreign minister and developmentist leader, noted that: "I support anything that is done with the purpose of adopting a proper strategy that will lead to the recovery of the Malvinas, but I must also note that one must always consider the price that has to be paid for obtaining a declaration." He added that just as in the Malvinas case, it may happen that there is little more to a declaration than what we already have but that an Argentine declaration on other issues may bring us difficulties with other countries; difficulties that may be key factors when negotiations are held. He noted that "when negotiations are held, we shall not negotiate with those countries that were at the New Delhi conference but with Great Britain. The United States will be the country that will exert more pressure on Great Britain for holding negotiations."

Justicialist candidate Angel Federico Robledo commenting on Bignone's speech said that "although, it is not in a truly Peronist style, in general, it is in keeping with the old justicialist guidelines. This only shows that above and beyond any theories, the facts are in keeping with an old saying of Peron's who said that 'reality is the only truth.' Sooner or later, these liberal-type governments end up accepting the basic ideals of justicialism."

Alvaro Alsogaray, the leader of the Democratic Center Union, said that Argentina's association with nonaligned countries is "absurd and dangerous." Moreover he said that the military junta and former Foreign Minister Costa Mendez are responsible for "launching Argentina into a policy that strives to achieve a biased and inoperative support for our country in the conflict with Great Britain."

In a letter he sent to the military junta former Peronist Deputy Luis Sobrino Aranda, expressed his "astonishment" over the president's attitude since he praised Fidel Castro and also the father of subversion, 'Arafat.'

CSO: 3348/265

AGUIRRE LANARI ON NONALIGNED MEETING

PY071800 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2040 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, 6 Mar (TELAM)--Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari was today visibly annoyed over the repercussions in Buenos Aires of press reports on President Bignone's stay in Kenya. Speaking at the Argentine ambassador's residence in India, the foreign minister said that it is necessary to overcome ill-will and prejudice in order to confront the subtle and corrosive action that Great Britain is deploying through its tremendous resources inside and outside to journalists accompanying the president in his first trip to India. The foreign minister also noted that the summit meeting may go beyond schedule since the drafting commission which must study over 110 proposals was studying the 12th point on Sunday.

He also noted that the Malvinas issue is a priority issue that will be discussed by the chiefs of state but that the Iran-Iraq issue, Palestine-Israel issue and economic subjects are also of great importance and I believe these issues will set the pace of the negotiations.

Regarding the optimism reigning among the members of the Argentine delegation, like the president Aguirre Lanari noted: I am not carried away by the belief in easy victories. I am a cautious man by nature.

The foreign minister particularly noted the many obstacles that Great Britain is up to undermine Argentine objectives. In this regard and after noting the slight coverage that local English-speaking newspapers granted to President Bignone's arrival in New Delhi, the foreign minister told an anecdote about the British in India and Asia.

He noted that during the Malvinas war, former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera visited India in his role as leader of the Interparliamentary Union. However, before his trip he had issued a strongly pro-Argentine statement and therefore the New Delhi newspapers completely ignored his visit. Aguirre Lanari added: This is because Great Britain has investments totaling \$90 billion in India.

Moreover, he said that if they decide to support the Argentine cause, Great Britain can exert more pressure on small countries than on India since their commitments with Great Britain are far greater.

As for the coverage that the Argentine media granted to the presidential trip to Kenya, Aguirre Lanari said that all Argentines take the Malvinas issue personally but he said that it is not merely a question of personal feelings but also of doing one's duty.

He added: To do one's duty, we must make sacrifices, all kinds of sacrifices.

He noted: There were argentines who died for this cause and we are indebted to them since the national spirit must overcome ill-will and prejudice, not matter the reason nor how old they may be.

He added that Argentina cannot afford to lose this diplomatic battle because of internal disputes without risking the future of our islands. Aguirre Lanari noted: We must overcome prejudices for this cause since national support is necessary if we are to confront the subtle and corrosive actions that Great Britain is deploying against us through its immense resources inside and outside the nonaligned movement.

He said: The Malvinas cause calls for patriotism. This is imperative for those who have the honor and the responsibility of being Argentines.

CSO: 3248/254

RADIO STATION VIEWS COUNTRY'S POSITION IN NONALIGNED

PY092246 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 83

[Radio station commentary: "Argentina's Position Within the Nonaligned Movement"]

[Text] There was much criticism when Argentina aligned itself within the Third World and the Nonaligned Movement. Some people talked about Argentina as a power when the basic elements of Argentine potential and its people were not even developed yet. Other people believed that joining the Nonaligned Movement meant committing the country from an ideological viewpoint, in other words, relinquishing our position in the Western world.

None of these views were correct. President Bignone defined Argentina's foreign policy in the speech he delivered at the opening session of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit on behalf of Argentina and of the Latin American bloc.

Argentina, which is a developing nation concerned for its future, is currently suffering the consequences of the East-West dispute over the arms race; the persistence of colonialist vestiges, such as the Malvinas--and there are other examples within Latin America, such as Belize--and of economic issues that have given way to a confrontation between developed and developing nations in the so-called North-South dialogue.

Bignone recalled the time-honored words of the founder of the movement, Pandij Nehru, to the effect that nonalignment should not be understood as a synonym for passiveness. President Bignone stated that the hegemonic policy implemented by some powerful countries and the rebirth of expansionist and imperialistic attitude are among the dangers that the Nonaligned Movement will have to counter within the next 3 years. This statement justifies Argentina's seeking friendship, cooperation and support from countries apart from those of the Western world, although many of those countries have different ideals.

The dialogue is the most important condition for surviving in the international field. However, this does not mean that Argentina must relinquish its symbols, convictions, traditions and its spiritual, cultural and political values in order to assume a prominent international role.

(Jorge Pont) stated in his book entitled "Psychological and Social Strategies" that it is very easy to mistake reality for truth. On the one hand, our reality tells us that we should be close to those nations that are subject to those same international pressures that are preventing us from achieving goals such as effective development. On the other hand, however, we believe in safeguarding our principles, reality and our beliefs are like two lanes of an avenue that go in the same direction. For this reason, accepting Cuba's support--such as in the Malvinas case--even though our ideological positions are basically different, should not cause surprise. Accepting this support will not place us within the Eastern bloc next to one of the most powerful countries in the world, but rather it will make it possible for us, as Argentines and Latin Americans, to demand respect for our rights from the powerful Western countries and the communist bloc.

CSO: 3248/254

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE ON FALKLANDS WAR FACES DELAYS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] The committee investigating the political and strategic responsibilities in the war for the Malvinas has not yet received any indication from the Military Junta calling for it to accelerate its work, according to reliable sources.

It was indicated, nevertheless, that the Committee's estimate coincides with the view expressed by President Bignone to the leadership of the UCR [Radical Civic Union], which is that the findings of the investigation could be submitted in May.

The Military Junta would then have to analyze the Interforces Committee's report and could, in June, publish the official findings with respect to war-related responsibilities.

What is known is that on the previous Friday morning Maj Gen Edgardo Nestor Calvi met with the members of the Interforces Committee.

The military chief had headed the investigation on the conduct of Army officers and noncommissioned officers during the war in the South Atlantic, the findings of which were compiled in an extensive proceeding that came to be known as the "Calvi Report," the content of which has been kept top secret.

Calvi, who is now chief of the Army General Staff, was the commander of military institutes during the war.

He did not appear before the Committee as a witness, but rather as a guest whose views could be of value to the analysis being conducted.

Similar contacts have not been held with the top officials of the other armed forces, since the conduct of the cadres of those forces is not under full-scale investigation.

Information Leaks

According to leaked information, the Committee--which is made up of Generals Rattenbach and Sanchez de Bustamente, Admirals Vago and Boffi, and Brigadiers Rey and Cabrera--has completed the fact-finding phase.

The next step in the investigation will be the sifting and correlation of the mass of evidence received. Following this, those who officially headed the state and the Armed Forces during the conflict will be cited to appear before the Committee.

Those cited will include Lt Gen Leopoldo Galtieri, Adm Jorge Anaya, Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo, and the ex-ministers of foreign relations and economy, Nicanor Costa Mendez and Roberto Alemann, respectively.

The dates of these appearances have not been set as yet, although it was indicated that they are hardly likely to take place before the first half of March.

Reports

The three former commanders-in-chief of the Malvinas have agreed with present Military Junta to submit each his own report on the conflict in the South Atlantic.

These reports will be divided into three parts: The first will cover up to the military recovery of the islands; the second, up to the sinking of the cruiser "General Belgrano"; and the third, up to the fall of Puerto Argentino.

As of this date, only the first part of each former commander's report has been submitted to the Junta and, according to the leaked information, it is not known when the remaining parts will be submitted, since it appears that no deadline for their submittal has been set.

Disciplinary Actions and Retirements

Two top Army officers, who were responsible for a unit that suffered severe losses in the fighting for Ganso Verde during the war for the Malvinas, have been disciplined and retired.

Military sources have confirmed the retirement of a lieutenant colonel and a major, which took place several weeks ago, although the decision has been kept under strict secrecy until now.

It was also stated that both officers had been previously put under arrest for 90 days by the Army High Command.

The charges on which the disciplinary action and subsequent retirement had been based could not be learned, although the mentioned sources indicated that the two officers in command "had not assumed their full responsibilities in the face of the enemy."

The fighting took place on 28 May, when British paratroops attacked positions that were courageously defended by Argentine troops.

Major H. Jones, the second in command of the British Red Berets, was killed during the first moments of the fighting, when he attacked an Argentine machine-gun position.

The Argentine troops, under attack by the paratroopers brought in by helicopters from the San Carlos bridgehead, fought what was probably the bloodiest of the war's land actions.

London reported having inflicted the loss of over 200 of our country's troops there.

9399

CSO: 3348/219

COMMENTARY VIEWS FUTURE FATE OF ANTARCTICA

PY122100 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Malaysian delegates proposed at the nonaligned conference, which has just ended, that the antarctic continent be converted into a common patrimony of mankind.

There is an antarctic treaty which will expire in 17 years. Malaysia is not a signatory country and has not even undertaken any scientific, geological or oceanographic research, such as has been done by India which is also not a signatory of the treaty.

According to article 4 of the treaty, no country may make claims of sovereignty, a point which is of interest to Argentine, Chile and Great Britain, for example. The Malaysian proposal, which is similar to one made by India several years ago, calls for a few thoughts.

The first one refers to the subject of sovereignty over antarctic regions and adjacent waters because, in addition to the nations just mentioned whose territorial claims overlap, also Australia, Norway, New Zealand and France have made such claims.

The second thought refers to the exploitation of the fishery and the hydrocarbon and mineral deposits existing in the subsoil and in the antarctic waters.

Both subjects are interrelated. Nations which do not intend to claim any sovereignty whatever, among which are the United States and the Soviet Union, aspire to extract the wealth wherever it is and wherever they can.

It is suggestive that Malaysia is a member of the ASEAN, which is supported by the United States in order to hem in Vietnam and to stop the expansionist aspirations of a few other Asiatic powers. If the Malaysian proposal had been successful, and it might be so in the future, it would make it possible for the exploitation of the antarctic, converted into a common patrimony of mankind, to become a first property for the powers and superpowers.

It is sufficient to give a single example regarding capacity for exploiting wealth. Some of the fish life of the southern seas has disappeared because of the depredation committed by those powers. Something similar might occur in the white continent because of the ultrasophisticated technology possessed by those nations but not by countries like Argentina, at least not at present. Would the great powers share the wealth extracted from the antarctic with the developing nations? Experience in matters of international economy and politics gainsays any hope that this will occur.

There are still 17 years before any decision is made regarding the continuation or termination of the antarctic treaty as it is now formulated. Nevertheless everything seems to indicate that it is right to prepare oneself for that date. In 1991 [as heard] it will no longer be a question of controversies or discussions at international meetings; it will be a question of actions which, at that time, the great powers will regard themselves as being free to undertake.

CSO: 3348/265

DEFICIENCIES IN GRAIN EXPORT FACILITIES NOTED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 20 Feb 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Grain Storage and Handling"]

[Excerpts] The storage and transport of our harvests, and its loading aboard ships in the case of exports, are a subject of vital importance to our agriculture and our export sector. Of interest in this respect is the flow of the operations involved in the immediate harvesting of the crops during their brief harvest seasons, and their warehousing and shipment to the port to be loaded into the ships' holds, when their destination is world markets. Of interest also is the cost of these operations, which in our milieu is high, reducing the competitiveness of our national production.

According to the Secretariat of Agriculture, our capacity is 29 million tons, compared to a production which, this season, will total around 36 or 37 million tons. On the whole, storage facilities are adequate for the purpose for which they are intended. There are deficiencies, however, in the deployment system, and it is to overcome these deficiencies that new facilities are being planned under projected credits. The bottleneck is basically in the transportation facilities and the port accesses. Rail transportation, which is of the foremost interest for this type of merchandise, has well-known shortcomings that have limited the movement of cargo to not more than 7 million tons per year, a total that is unquestionably very low. Trucking, which seeks to bridge the gap, has not always had the needed road infrastructure, and in the more recent years has been unable to respond to the demand. Water transportation, which is intended to handle the flow of production from the northeast, is being developed at an embryonic pace that must be speeded up. This clearly provides the best option for the new grain-producing regions of Chaco and Formosa.

There has been an improvement in the ports, under the aegis of the National Grain Board, on the part of the authorities controlling loading operations and in the operation of private facilities, namely, docks, lighters and barges, and loading stations. Although no one doubts that efficiency still leaves much to be desired, the fact is that loading rates of 3.5 million tons per month have been attained on various occasions, and this is sufficient to handle our present harvests.

The modernization program mentioned above will resolve our present difficulties and hence will meet our near-term needs, although it must be remembered that our system is neither efficient nor economical. Moreover, the outlook is clouded by the prospect of conflicts and paralyses that can affect substantially the transportation and loading of products that are the subject of this commentary. The intermediate and long terms, however, present other aspects.

9399

CSO: 3348/219

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN REGION HIGHLIGHTED

Officials Announce Plans

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 18 Feb 83 p 12

[Text] Yesterday, the secretary of maritime interests, Rear Adm Ciro Garcia, announced that the government had decided to promote and initiate the link between the continent and the island of Tierra del Fuego, which will be accomplished by means of the construction of two ports at the ends of the Strait of Magellan, so that the distance to be covered by the vessels carrying vehicles will be minimal.

After a meeting held yesterday at noon with the governor of the territory, Capt (ret) Raul Suarez del Cerro, the official announced that it was intended to begin the work this year, and that it was also expected to be done with the new fishing wharf at Ushuaia.

Governor Suarez del Cerro, for his part, reported that he had received assurances from the president of the nation and the members of the Military Junta indicating that the effectiveness of Law 19,640, which established a promotional system for Tierra del Fuego, will be continued.

The Link

The state secretary, in a talk with reporters, explained that one of the constant goals being maintained is the promotion of Patagonia, and that the construction work for the physical link with Tierra del Fuego is included in that context; for which purpose (he said), there is already "a small appropriation."

He remarked that, at present, the phase of consultation is under way with Argentine companies, which have been invited to submit background information on their experience with seaport projects and construction, involving sums no less than \$200 million.

The ports to be built will be located on Cape Virgenes, in Santa Cruz Province, and Cape Espiritu Santo, in the National Territory of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and the South Atlantic Islands; in other words, at the ends of the Strait of Magellan.

Circulating between them will be vessels carrying vehicles (which will have to be built), sailing at a speed of 15 knots, and covering the distance in approximately an hour and a half.

As for the fishing wharf for the town of Ushuaia, Garcia said that its construction would enable the business firms already in the area and those to be established to have an infrastructure that is needed for their activity.

He added that the territory's government would back the completion thereof with all the supplementary structures, stressing the importance of the work from the standpoint of employing labor and the opportunities that it will afford for the use of the fish resources, which are currently under-utilized. He remarked: "It will mean foreign exchange that will enter the country."

Suarez del Cerro

Governor Suarez del Cerro, in turn, commented that there is very little awareness in the country of the fact that the island of Tierra del Fuego "is the geographical center of the country, which we claim is ours, because if we observe a map of Argentina, it extends from La Quiaca to the South Pole itself, with the entire Antarctic projection and the South Atlantic islands."

He added: "Tierra del Fuego lies exactly halfway between La Quiaca and the South Pole; which means that it is the last support point that we have to consolidate another half of the country, consisting of the southern islands."

Consequently, he claimed to be convinced that the country "needs that southern center of gravity, so that from there we can consistently and persistently project ourselves, as has been done by our neighbor on the Pacific, which has not begrudged efforts or sacrifices in order to direct all its weight to the southern zone."

He noted that the greatest obstacle to achieving that great enclave development was the lack of communication with the continent, a communication that is currently taking place through Chile; and that, for this reason, the construction work announced by Rear Adm Garcia will (he said) constitute "the most significant work for the region's future."

He added: "Then, the Strait of Magellan will become nothing more than the moving section of National Route No 3, on which the input needed for the major industrial development will arrive."

He then underscored the importance of the fishing wharf construction, giving a reminder that mankind has 60 percent of its protein reserves in the seas.

He declared: "The effort now being made will accrue benefits from now until the year 2000, and many years thereafter."

He recalled that approval had also been given for a plan for the complete paving of Route 3, on the island section, which is "the backbone of its development," within 3 years.

Seaport Opened

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 8 Feb 83 p 24

[Text] Viedma--Tomorrow, Wednesday, 9 February, when the official authorization of the San Antonio Este maritime station takes place, the long-standing ambition of

Rio Negro for having a port from which to ship its abundant, diversified economic production will finally have entered the realm of definitive materialization.

The gigantic steel and cement structure erected at a cost of \$25 million, which is reflected on the water surface of the Gulf of San Matias, will now make it possible to eliminate a prolonged, unfair dependence on ports outside of the region, saving freight charges and time. This will be the auspicious culmination of the ambitious project started at the birth of the new province during the early 1960's, which was, for over 20 years, the object of concern and continuity of all the administrations following it.

This historic event will reach its true dimensions at the end of February, when the exporting of pears and apples from Alto Valle, from the 1982-83 harvest, begins, representing sizable volumes of resources to generate foreign exchange, which have always sought their external markets through the port of Ingeniero White, in the vicinity of the Buenos Aires town of Bahia Blanca.

Features of the Project

The works projects to be opened consist basically of the main wharf, with two front mooring places for general cargo, measuring 200 meters long by 30 meters wide; the equivalent of 400 linear meters of docking for vessels with a draft of over 30 feet. It should be stressed that the fruit vessels average from 21 to 24 feet, with a maximum of 26. The access viaduct is 290 meters long, by 12 meters wide, with a 9-meter causeway. The wharf was built on piles lined and filled with concrete, and consists of a shore protection 350 meters long, to guard against the strong currents that are present.

The depth of the area where the port is located is 12 meters (40 feet) in its outer portion, and 10 meters (35 feet) in its inner portion; which will make it possible to operate large burden cargo ships. The work has also been completed on the parking platform, on electricity, lighting, buoy and plumbing systems, and on the drinking water supply. The work involving backup infrastructure that is in an advanced phase of construction will be totally finished following the exporting of this harvest, starting in May.

Socioeconomic Significance

Obviously, the projection of the port of San Antonio Este to a vast "hinterland" supplying raw materials, will have an effect that will be felt not only in Rio Negro, but also in Neuquen and southern Mendoza. Although it will begin with the fruit shipments, the region is already assured reimbursement of 8 percent for its exports, and other additional benefits, which will convert the ocean station into an outlet for leather, wool, lumber, minerals, etc. Considering its favorable geographical location with respect to the production centers, it should be emphasized that, from Alto Valle, whose epicenter is Cipolletti, the distance to San Antonio is 466 kilometers, as opposed to 537 to Bahia Blanca. The distance to Puerto Madryn is 248 kilometers; from Valle Inferior it is 313 kilometers, and to San Antonio, 191 kilometers, with a difference of 122. Moreover, and insofar as the land freight charges

are concerned, San Antonio represents a reduction of approximately 60 percent, compared with Buenos Aires; the advantage over Bahia Blanca is about 12.7 percent; and in comparison with Puerto Madryn, the benefit of handling the fruit from Rio Negro involves a savings of 35.34 percent.

The socioeconomic effect of the port of San Antonio will dynamize the enclave development of the eastern section of Rio Negro, because the volume of products expected to be exported will unquestionably make the new maritime station a vanguard facility in international trade. Added to this is the potential of the province for developing the areas under irrigation, which currently total 135,818 hectares; a figure that, according to official forecasts, could reach 500,000 hectares, with the possibility of incorporating up to a million into the irrigation.

Within a few hours, Rio Negro will cease to be the only province with a seacoast lacking a port. The San Antonio project will result in its ceasing to be a factory.

Rio Negro Port Significance

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 26 Feb 83 p 6

[Text] A long-expressed aspiration in Rio Negro has just achieved reality: the establishment of a port in its waters, for immediate contact with various parts of the world and with other sections of the country. Since a distant era, that Patagonian province has been demanding it in order to provide a direct outlet for its products, thereby saving the cost of freight, inasmuch as it would become unnecessary to send them to far-off locations for shipment abroad.

Rio Negro has found its long-standing intention of having a maritime station, now called San Antonio Este, which is being built in the Gulf of San Matias, becoming a reality. A total of \$25 million was invested in the project, the payment of which will not take long, when one considers the intensity of the circulation of ships loaded with fruit, heading for various parts of Europe and America, where the demand for apples and pears has made them one of our most regular exports. But markets will also be sought there for the sale of leather, wool, lumber, minerals, etc., coming not only from Rio Negro, but also from Neuquen and southern Mendoza. In other words, the brand-new port, like a large hollow, will also receive the resources of the neighboring provinces, for their subsequent transfer to the consumption centers.

With a main wharf measuring 200 meters long and 30 meters wide, on both sides ships with a draft of over 30 feet will be moored, and owing to the structure of the facilities, it will operate quickly and safely. In brief: From now on, nothing but advantages of various kinds can be estimated, with the equipping of the mooring berth; and the gain from its activity will be translated into vast economic benefits for that progressive state, with a population of nearly 400,000 inhabitants, as revealed by the latest census.

First Shipment to Europe

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 21

[Text] San Antonio Este--Yesterday, in the presence of Governor San Juan and other high-ranking authorities, the first shipment of fruit from Alto Valle, assigned

for export, was officially initiated in the recently equipped Rio Negro port of San Antonio Este.

The white silhouette of the freighter flying the Soviet flag, "Kandaba," which will carry 160,000 crates of apples and pears to Sweden and Norway, cleared the way for the diversified economic production of the North Patagonian state to reach various world markets.

The event has assumed historic significance and major importance because, up until now, the production from Rio Negro was removed through ports located outside of the province.

It was reported that this first fruit shipment will transport 120,000 crates of apples to Norway, and 40,000 to Sweden, both traditional purchasers. The fruit will be carried to the port of San Antonio on about 180 trucks, which will travel from Alto Valle, and which were supplied by several exporting firms.

To underscore the prospects for development in the sphere of influence of the maritime station, it should also be mentioned that the contribution from fruit exports to the national treasury is about \$250 million per year; while at the same time this constitutes the province's leading economic activity, and a source of funds reflected in the generation of 60 percent of Rio Negro's gross product.

During 1982, over 14 million crates of pears and apples were sold on Brazilian markets, and the rest in the Scandinavian countries of the European Economic Community, particularly Norway, Sweden and Germany. Statistical data indicate that 11,970,907 packages of apples are absorbed by foreign consumers; while the figure for pears stands at about 2,997,905 crates. Of the total exports, 5,387,398 and 1,706,686, respectively, go to Brazil, which has become the leading market for Rio Negro's fresh fruit exports.

This first shipment, which will be completed within the next few days, is the forerunner of the constant activity that will typify the maritime outlet of San Antonio Este; through which other equally important items will be channeled, such as concentrated juice, fruit by-products, fish, wool, meat, minerals and others.

To complete the opportunities that are beginning to be discerned in the Gulf of San Matias, stress should also be placed on the prospects for establishing industries in the zone and region, such as iron and steel and meat-packing firms.

San Antonio, which came into existence at the turn of the century as a port and "rail center," when the railroad was being built to San Carlos de Bariloche, experienced periods of greatness (it was the first-ranking town in Patagonia in numbers of inhabitants); and later it succumbed to a regrettable oblivion, starting in the 1940's, when the cargo declined almost to the point of disappearing.

Projects for Tierra del Fuego

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Feb 83 p 22

[Text] Yesterday, after meeting with the undersecretary of economy, Victor Poggi, the governor of the National Territory of Tierra del Fuego, Capt Raul Suarez del

Cerro, confirmed the fact that Law No 19,640, on regional promotion, will not be changed, and that the state "will advance" a billion pesos for projects, charged to the national budget that is being planned.

Suarez del Cerro held a lengthy meeting with Poggi, which will be continued at the end of next week, when he will be received by the minister of economy, Jorge Wehbe.

At the end of the meeting, the governor of Tierra del Fuego claimed: "The geopolitical situation, and nothing else, is the only cause justifying the action that must be taken on behalf of our territory."

He described such action as "the continuity, as it is, of Law No 19,640, on economic promotion, and four essential projects: the island's physical connection with the continent, through the stations located on national territory; the complete paving of National Route No 3, from Cape Espiritu Santo to Ushuaia; the establishment of a fishing port in Ushuaia, which will make it possible to exploit the vast resource represented by krill; and a new runway at the Ushuaia airport, to take advantage of the tourist resources that we possess."

2909

CSO: 3348/249

ARMY OFFICER CALLED TO TESTIFY ON CORRUPTION

PY050002 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0143 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Mar (NA)--The army command tonight summoned the former director of the Operations Undersecretariat of the Public Information Secretariat (SIP), Col (Ret) Pedro Coria, to make a statement on charges of corruption he made in the farewell speech he delivered today.

The communique states that Coria is requested "To explain, submitting specific facts and evidence, any cases of corruption he may have learned about and which until now have not been reported to this command."

Although the official communique does not say so, military sources have reported that Coria will make his declarations tomorrow before officers of the commander in chief.

The next of the communique that was issued by the "Libertador" building a few minutes before 2200, reads as follows:

"In view of statement made by Col (Ret) Pedro Coria in his farewell speech as operations undersecretary of the Public Information Secretariat, the army commander in chief today summoned Colonel Coria to make a declaration, supplying specific facts and evidence, about any cases of corruption which he may have learned about and which until now have not been reported to this command."

In his farewell speech, Coria noted that "When I assumed my duties I said I would struggle until the two evils that are affecting Argentina were eradicated: subversion and corruption."

After noting that the first objective had been achieved, the former official said that "unfortunately and despite the effort made in this regard, the second one still exists and it continues to undermine the cornerstones of the nation, of the process and harms honest and loyal officers."

He explained that in the 14 months he was in charge of the post, he struggled against corruption, but he charged that "there are corrupt people who do not want us to develop and they let themselves be swayed by interests that do us much harm."

The ceremony was held at Government House with the presence of official government reporters.

However, going against usual procedure the SIP did not supply the text of his speech to journalists appointed to Government House.

CSO: 3248/254

ARMY COMMANDER ADDRESSES 'MILITARY FAMILY'

PY120114 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Message by Army Commander Lt Gen Cristino Nicolaides addressed to the "military family" before leaving Posadas for Resistencia on a tour through provinces affected by floods]

[Excerpts] Inspired by the traditions and the chivalry of the land of misiones, I feel the great urge to address our military family.

I do so because I feel that our military family is today afflicted, hurt and even confused, that it is suffering the same anxieties and facing the same uncertainties which are afflicting the rest of national society.

Despite our generous dedication and the glories of a spotless history, some are trying to turn our dear institution and its members into the target of their lies and prey of their diatribes, questioning what has been done, creating or exaggerating faults, creating a climate of mistrust, distorting events so as to make them fit into generalizations, and being generalizations they can rely on the impunity of vagueness and on the insidious sagacity of groundless accusations.

Parents and children are noting with astonishment and despair, but without losing confidence in their loved ones, the arbitrary manner in which behavior marked by a lifetime of honesty and the disposition to serve is becoming the target of these generalizations.

It is extremely difficult, then, to understand the political use of lies and of calling things into question. The offense received only leads to animosity and to powerlessness before such an injustice.

We know the quality of those who undermine the prestige of our comrades with these aggressions. We know that they are trying to cause confusion with the criticism we accept and promote, and cause confusion also with the insult we do not accept but reject.

We are aware of what it means for the military family to be the object of an obstinate, not very clear and unjust attack which, seeking undeclared objectives, tries unsuccessfully to cause a confrontation with the people who support us--men and women who are no different than we are.

Therefore, in view of these attacks we must clearly express our ideas: we will not accept unfounded accusations and we will be rigorously strict in imposing sanctions within the framework of the law on misbehavior and immoralities. We will not play the dialectic game of the dispute that weakens, but we will act firmly and decisively to safeguard the prestige of our institution. We will not violate the rights of our fellow citizens, but we will demand, through the legal norms, that they be responsible for these actions.

I urge you, therefore, to rally close together around the great ideals which give substance to our lives and profession. I urge you to defend through daily behavior the prestige of the institution we belong to. I urge you to reject the complacency characteristic of accomplices, the resentment which frustrates and interests which are selfish. I urge you to turn our unity and moral strength into a permanent behavior and make our vocation a profession of faith so as to reaffirm our commitment to the fatherland, protect its borders, safeguard its freedom and the dignity of its inhabitants. Only thus will we be worthy of belonging to the Argentine Army.

CSO: 3348/255

AIR FORCE INTERFERENCE IN GOVERNMENT NOTED

PY161350 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 1 Section 11

[Editorial: "A Military Force As a Deliberative Body"]

[Text] Once again the Argentine citizenry has been caught by surprise by press reports which show the air force as a deliberative body which, by the initiative of its own members, discusses and proposes decisions which basically belong to the government. Last month we learned about the higher air force echelon's concern over the exact figures of the country's foreign debt and how the country would solve this problem, as well as their request that all actions considered illegal, committed by government officials during the process, be clarified before power is handed over to the civilians.

The dissemination by the media of the air force officers' concern over political and economic issues has caused uneasiness among the public who interpreted it as a sign of disagreement between the government and the air force or among various air force hierarchies. Unofficial statements, stressing that the relations between the air force commander, the president of the republic and the members of the military junta were "perfectly cordial" and that a "clear sense of responsibility" prevailed among them, were not enough to blow away this unpleasant feeling. About the same time Lt Gen Augusto Hughes confirmed the same "solidarity" to the president during a luncheon during which they both voiced their "coinciding concerns over the current problems."

Now it is publicly commented that the air force's higher echelons believe that the desired negotiated understanding is no longer feasible among the state, businessmen and labor unions with the consent of the main political parties, or an agreement with the multiparty group over economic issues. As a consequence they will reportedly propose the adoption of various concrete measures regarding interest rates, trade terms and the renegotiation of the guidelines approved by the IMF.

According to the government pattern established by the national reorganization process, the air force commander is a member of the military junta and as such has the right to choose the advisors he may deem suitable and make the consultations he may deem necessary. However, this is very far from what is happening when brigadier generals and colonels--whatever their duty within the air force may be--can legitimately arrogate to themselves deliberative functions to examine questions which are foreign to their specific tasks and propose government measures which are the exclusive prerogative of either the junta, the executive branch or the legislative Advisory Commission.

BRIEFS

DEVALUATION RUMORS DENIED--Yesterday afternoon, President Bignone held a meeting with Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe. During the meeting the economy minister told the president that he continues studying the implementation of the economic measures that are being planned and he supplied more information on issues they had discussed in a previous meeting. Wehbe also reported that he briefed President Bignone on some press reports about an alleged devaluation. The economy minister said that these reports are completely false. He also said that although this is not the first time these reports are published, and although it has always been proven that they are false, they do a lot of harm. During the meeting, the economy minister also informed the president that the monetary and fiscal objectives established with the IMF are being met and that, therefore, there is no need to request a renegotiation with the IMF since Argentina can meet its obligations. [Text] [PY161624 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Mar 83]

TANK PRODUCTION--Cordoba (DYN)--Angel Ridolfi, director general of GMD [Large Diesel Motors], which belongs to the Fiat group, made known to Governor Ruben Juan Pelanda his firm's concern over "the possible discontinuance of certain defense orders," and requested the intervention of the Cordoba government in this respect. The firm had recently been manufacturing parts for the Argentine medium tank component, and this issue, among others, was taken up at the meeting, which included Jose Porta, undersecretary of industry and commerce of the province. Ridolfi expressed his thanks to Pelanda for the backing being provided by the provincial executive branch toward a production program the object of which is to maintain sources of labor. He also reported to the government on the firm's manufacturing plans, which include new alternatives for the conversion of motors to use gas as a fuel, new motors for the oil industry and marine use, and new types of rail locomotive power plants. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Feb 83 p 3] 9399

CSO: 3348/219

TOURISM DROPS TO RECORD LOW IN '83, DOWN 13.8 PERCENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados recorded its biggest drop ever in tourism arrivals last year, when 303 795 visitors came to the island, a drop of 13.8 per cent below the 1981 total of 352 591, according to official figures.

Last year's arrivals fell below the 1978 total of 316 883 and constituted the biggest percentage decrease recorded since the island has been keeping detailed tourism statistics.

Tourism is a vital foreign exchange earner here, constituting about a third of the gross domestic product, but the industry has been hard hit by the world recession.

Of the major tourist markets, the United States was the only one to show an overall increase 1.4 per cent or 1 039 more visitors than the 74 472 arrivals for 1981.

The Commonwealth Caribbean was responsible for the greatest number of tourist arrivals to Barbados last year, although this market

also showed a decrease.

Some 82 275 visitors came from the region, a drop of 5.9 per cent the 87 415 who came in 1981.

Britain, which showed a significant increase in 1981, recorded the biggest drop in arrivals last year — 29.1 per cent. This was 20 945 less visitors than the 72 090 who came in 1981.

Europe too, recorded a big decrease of 27.1 per cent moving from 29 621 visitors in 1981 to 21 588 last year.

Tourist arrivals from Barbados' other major market, Canada, dropped by 14.7 per cent or 10 278 less visitors than the 69 897 who came in 1981.

A decrease in tourist arrivals was recorded each month last year.

Last December 28 893 visitors came to the island, a drop of 16.6 per cent below the 34 659 for the corresponding period in the previous year

CSO: 3298/393

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS ON PRODUCTION, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Decline in Output

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank yesterday reported another poor performance of the local economy with real output declining by five per cent during 1982 following a three per cent fall in the previous year.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman, in reviewing the economic performance for 1982, said that all the major sectors of the economy were affected with a rise in the unemployment rate.

In giving a breakdown of the performances of the sectors, Dr. Blackman pointed out that "tourist arrivals declined for the third consecutive year and sugar production slumped to its lowest levels since 1984; exports of manufactured goods grew modestly and the balance of payments came under severe strain".

Tourist arrivals and cruise ship passengers fell below the levels of 1981 by some 13.5 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

The Bank attributed the fall-off in arrivals here to reduced disposable incomes in North America and Europe resulting in the diversion of visitors to destinations nearer home.

Another reason, Dr. Blackman said, was the collapse of major travel and airline companies.

Turning to sugar the Central Bank official said that the 88 000 tonnes of sugar produced last year were barely sufficient to supply Barbados' guaranteed markets and meet local requirements.

According to Dr. Blackman: "The income of the sugar industry could not cover its production costs, estimated to be almost \$1 300 per tonne".

Output in manufactures is estimated to have fallen by 1.5 per cent last year after a four per cent decline in 1981.

Apart from garments and electronic components, production of all other commodities fell, Dr. Blackman said.

Areas of Activity

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Economic activity in Barbados for last year has been mixed.

Yesterday Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman reviewed the performance of the economy with real output declining by five per cent following a three per cent fall in 1981.

Dr. Blackman said local oil production in 1982 rose by a whopping 22.5 per cent to 258 484 barrels, but natural gas sales remained at 7.3 million cubic metres.

Also the balance of payments problems persisted into 1982 even though the deficit was kept to \$7 million compared to a deficit of \$76 million in 1981.

Furthermore, Dr. Blackman said, domestic exports rose by 12 per cent but earnings from the tourist sector fell by an estimated 15 per cent.

He said that tight credit conditions curbed consumer imports while manufacturers ran down their inventories of intermediate goods in the face of declining domestic sales.

Capital goods imports increased sharply to meet the requirements of the cement plant and power projects.

The slowdown in inflation in Barbados' major trading partners and the appreciation of the Barbados dollar reduced the rate of domestic inflation quite substantially in 1982.

According to Dr. Blackman: "The average annual increase in prices was 10.3 per cent compared to 14.5 per cent in 1981 while the point-to-point rise was only 6.9 per cent, a sharp drop from the 12.3 per cent between 1980 and 1981."

Unemployment tabulated at the end of December last year was 13.3 per cent compared to 11 per cent for December 1981.

The rate, the Central Bank Governor pointed out, was higher for women and preliminary indications are that the loss in jobs was concentrated in the public sector and in tourism.

Agricultural Trend

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] For the second successive year non-sugar agriculture in Barbados has continued its upward trend.

The Central Bank yesterday announced that this sector "recorded another good year" with increased output in foodcrop, vegetables, and rearing of livestock.

However, the bank pointed out that a four-year boom in the construction sector came to an end in the wake of tight market for residential mortgages and the completion of major government projects.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman revealed that tight controls on current expenditure and a severe cut in the capital works programme reduced the fiscal deficit to \$106 million in 1982, compared with \$182.7 million in the previous year.

Current expenditure was restricted to \$470 million, an increase of only 6.2 per cent over 1981, although interest and salary payments rose by approximately \$35 million and \$12 million, respectively.

Dr. Blackman said that capital spending was considerably reduced to \$124 million, compared with the \$186.4 million in 1981.

The Central Bank official noted that as economic activity slowed down Government revenue rose by only 9.4 per cent to \$488 million.

"Financing of the fiscal deficit rested heavily on the domestic banking system as the level of foreign borrowing was severely reduced from \$94.7 million in 1981 to \$51 million last year.

Within the banking sector Dr. Blackman said that commercial bank credit, dampened by the slowdown in economic activity and credit restrictions, grew by only 4.8 per cent.

"Only the agricultural and manufacturing sectors borrowed as much in 1981," Dr. Blackman said.

He said the bank had raised reserve requirements from 25 per cent to 27 per cent in February and the restrictions on credit introduced in 1981 were kept in place through 1982.

Dr. Blackman said too that interest rates were reduced in October and again in December, following the decline in rates abroad.

He added that commercial bank deposits recorded their slowest growth of 7.1 per cent in five years.

CSC: 3296/393

DEVELOPMENT BANK CHAIRMAN REPORTS ON GROWTH IN KEY AREAS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Despite the uncertainty in the present national and global economic climate, the Barbados Development Bank has shown a significant growth in all its key areas, making a record Bds\$10.2 million in commitments and loans to industry, manufacturing and small businesses.

Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank (BDB), Mr. David Seale, told the Banks' annual general meeting yesterday that disbursements increased from \$11 million to \$20 million or 85 per cent over the previous year, while profits moved from \$62 000 to \$455 000, an enormous percentage increase.

He said that in industry, commitments increased by 38.7 per cent to a new record of \$7.7 million; while in small business and small manufacturing taken together, the loans increased by \$2.5 million, an increase of 76.0 per cent over the previous year.

Addressing the large gathering at the Dover Convention Centre, Christ Church, Mr. Seale said, too, that the increase in the number of loans to the two sectors was also significant, moving from 123 in the previous year, to 196 in the year ending March 31, 1982 now under review.

"I believe you will agree with me that the performance mentioned is a very creditable one and great credit must go to the staff of the Bank" said Senator Seale. "They have worked arduously and untiringly to achieve these results," he added.

With regard to the profit levels he had mentioned, Senator Seale said, "I would like to point out that although the Bank's first priority as a developmental institution is not the creation of large profits, yet the attainment of adequate profit levels is important to the Bank for the two critical reasons."

He explained that "if the Bank's return on investments is consistently less than the rate of inflation, the result will be a deterioration in the Bank's worth and its capacity to remain a truly viable institution."

He said, further, that a weak financial performance will adversely affect the Bank's credit rating, which in turn, will reduce the Bank's capacity to attract loan funds both from domestic and external sources.

Senator Seale reported further, that partly as a result of the current recession, the percentage of arrears on loans outstanding to the Bank, moved marginally from 3.4 per cent to 3.6 per cent.

"In a recessionary climate", he said, "one might wish to say that this is a good performance."

However, the chairman sounded a note of warning to the Bank's debtors. He said that some of the clients were using the recession to be slow in their payments when as a matter of fact, their businesses were doing quite well.

"We are quite aware that during a recession many businesses falter, and indeed some will fall, while at the same time, there are many others doing very well, indeed," said Senator Seale.

He added that the Bank intended to separate the businesses very carefully, "and to deal with each according to its just deserts."

CSO: 3298/393

UNION LAMENTS EXCESSIVE TURNOVER IN MINISTERS OF LABOR

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Workers' Union has voiced its concern about the turn-over of Ministers in the Ministry of Labour.

At its weekly Press conference yesterday, it noted that there has been a greater turn-over of Ministers in this Ministry than any other. In the almost seven years that the Barbados Labour Party Government was in power there have been three Ministers of Labour.

Mr. DeLisle Bradshaw is the latest Minister after the Cabinet reshuffle last week. The first was Dr. Don Blackman and the second was Mr. Vic Johnson.

The Union noted that while the Minister of Labour had an important function, his role could only be exercised in consonance with a progressive and forthright policy of Government on labour.

Said the union: "The voice of labour has been silent in the halls of Government while the voices that have been most vocal are those that are pushing the cause of the employers.

"The union does not object

to the employers playing an important role in the economy, a role that they should play, but we do not feel that the role of the worker is a mendicant one, just looking for crumbs that fall from the table".

The BWU said that it was looking forward to a dynamism in the Ministry of Labour that would give workers the impetus which they needed... "the union is conscious that the decision-makers regard the worker as a jobber and not as a generator of income.

"As a result, this negative attitude has caused labour as a force to be denigrated in the eyes of some sections of the public so that it is regarded as important only in times of short supply".

The BWU also voiced its concern about 25 per cent of the Cabinet being drawn from a non-elected body since this was not a true reflection of what Barbados regarded as a democracy... "we should not continue with this pale carbon-copy of the constitutional framework of the Westminster model", it said.

MINISTER PROMISES OVERHAUL OF NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 14 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Patrick Ward]

[Text]

THE entire operations of the National Housing Corporation will be revamped "in the very near future".

Announcing this yesterday was Minister of Housing and Lands, L.B. Brathwaite, who also served notice that "no action will be spared to remove any person or persons who stand in the way of allowing the corporation to operate on an efficient basis".

Brathwaite said that "I feel that the public is housing was an area not getting the best from which needed greater the NHC. public understanding ...

"There are some employees there who behave as though they are a law unto themselves, and not as servants of the public," Brathwaite stated.

The new housing minister added that he did not intend to take any disciplinary action at present, but rather action which would give the NHC "a more humane image".

Failing this achievement, he noted, whatever action was deemed necessary would be taken against any or all offenders.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Housing should not be called upon to make decisions for the NHC. "The NHC, is a creature of statute, and should function as such," the minister declared.

"If it comes to rolling of heads, that too will be done," the housing minister told THE NATION.

"I am looking forward to upgrading the NHC ... I consider the position to be of such a nature as to put it on a 'war-footing'."

Minister Brathwaite explained: "When there is a war you have to take all necessary action to repel the aggressors ... I am not saying that there are aggressors in the NHC, but I will have to put them on a war-footing nevertheless."

SWISS AMBASSADOR NOTES DESIRE FOR STRONGER TIES

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 4 Feb 83 p 16

[Text]

SWITZERLAND'S ambassador-designate to Barbados, Bernardino Scioli has repeated his government's "determination to continue doing its utmost toward the further development of the existing friendly relations" between Barbados and Switzerland.

Presenting his credentials to Governor-General Sir Deighton Ward at Government House on Tuesday, the envoy said that there was ample scope for the further development of those relations, as had been shown, for example, by the results already achieved in tourism, and in bilateral trade relations and investments.

He said that he considered himself "privileged and fortunate to have been entrusted with this high and challenging mission in a country which is, in all the world, a synonym for 'paradise'."

Accepting the ambassador's credentials, Sir Deighton said that despite the differences of history, language, culture and the geographical distance between Switzerland and Barbados, "there is great similarity in the courses we have chosen to follow."

The Governor General noted that both countries were staunch supporters of the rule of law, of tolerance and of democracy, and were firmly committed to greater social and economic progress for their peoples.

Sir Deighton reaffirmed Barbados' commitment to international dialogue and cooperation "which we believe to be the cornerstone for achievement of global peace and security."

He assured the ambassador that Barbados was indeed desirous of strengthening cooperation in tourism, trade and investments and would explore new avenues of cooperation.

CSO: 3298/394

BRIEFS

DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT--The number of unemployed persons in Barbados dropped during the last quarter of 1982, with there being some 15 300 persons out of work. This has been stated by the Government Information Service in a release on the employment and unemployment statistics for the fourth quarter of last year. The release said: "The number of persons employed was 99 500 compared with 97 900 persons during the third quarter of the year and indicated an increase of 1 600 jobs during the review period. There were 15 300 persons unemployed during the quarter under review as compared with 17 000 for the third third quarter." According to GIS the number of adults increased from 177 600 persons in the third quarter to 177 800 during the fourth quarter. This was also higher than the 177 100 persons for the fourth quarter of 1981. It was also stated that those persons not in the labour force increased from 62 700 for the third quarter to 63 000 persons. The labour force as a percentage of the number of adults stood at 64.6 per cent. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Feb 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/394

CUELLAR OUT AS PUP SECRETARY, LEFT-WING INVOLVED

Reason for Resignation

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Mr. Mark Cuellar, Secretary- General of the People's United Party has tendered his resignation as Party Secretary because he finds it difficult to serve in a full time capacity due to other business commitments.

The Party Leader, has accepted the resignation and has conveyed in his letter to Mr. Cuellar, appreciation and gratitude for the service Mr. Cuellar has rendered.

Mr. Cuellar will continue serving the party as an organizer

Charge of Left-Wing Involvement

Belize City THE BEACON in English 19 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] THIS week we received a press release from the People's United Party (PUP) concerning the resignation of Mr. Mark Cuellar as Secretary General.

We are reliable informed that recently at the Pickwick Club Cuellar and Mr. Everal Waight were involved in an altercation in which Cuellar said unprintable things about Said Musa, Waight's boss, and the left wing of the PUP.

Musa is said to have told the Prime Minister that either Cuellar goes or he does.

Cuellar has been forced out.

So once again the left-wing beats the right-wing.

CSO: 3298/396

BRITISH SPOKESMAN CLARIFIES STANDING OF LOCAL FORCES

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 13 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] A SPOKESMAN for British Forces in Belize has denied a press report which said that the base camp at Salamanca in the Toledo District has been turned over to the Belize Defence Force.

Captain Bob Fletcher, Press Liaison Officer in Belize, called the REPORTER on Monday to say that the camp at Salamanca has not been handed over and is still being occupied by the British. He was commenting on a REPORTER editorial which said that the British had begun a quiet, voluntary pull-back of her movements in Belize.

Captain Fletcher said that a small camp at Cattle Landing, not far from Punta Gorda Town, was in fact being occupied by the BDF. This was to allow for more joint exercises, he said.

Captain Fletcher also clarified the position of the two landing craft, which the REPORTER editorial said had disappeared from view. "These two R.T.L.'s are still in operation" Captain Fletcher said, "and are being moored for convenience at the old Customs Wharf". In addition the Army maintains a harbour launch which it uses with the RTL's to handle supplies.

Captain Fletcher informed the newspaper that the overall level of British Forces stationed in Belize has remained static since approximately 1977 at between 1,700 and 1,800 including Army and Royal Air Force personnel. When the complement of the Guard Ship is included, this figure in strength of British Forces in Belize goes up by another 400 to 500 persons.

CSO: 3298/396

NEW IRAQI ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS, MEETS LEADERS

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] Belize continues to strengthen its ties with countries all over the world.

Since the achievement of Belizean independence on Sept 21 1981, Belize has established diplomatic relations with countries in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe.

At the end of last month Iraq named its ambassador (non resident) to Belize.

He is Mr Fahkri Ahmad Quisin al Quisy, who came to Belize to present his credentials and to meet with government leaders in an effort to identify areas of cooperation between the two countries.

In most cases the establishment of diplomatic ties has been only a formality since Belize in the past decade has made many friends abroad.

Ambassador Quisin al Quisy (top picture with Prime Minister Price) [photo not reproduced] came accompanied by his wife and son. He met with Governor General Dr Minita Gordon (bottom picture second from left) [photo not reproduced]. The Chief of Protocol Mr Rudy Castillo (left) [photo not reproduced] the ambassador, his wife and son were also in Belmopan.

CSO: 3298/396

PRE-, POST-ELECTION MATERIALS; PLP LEVELS ACCUSATIONS

Blame on Swan for Voter Lists

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 1 Feb 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party last night laid the blame for the Island's smaller voter list at the feet of Premier the Hon. John Swan.

Mr. Swan, as a former Minister of Home Affairs, was personally responsible for engineering an election that will see hundreds of citizens made ineligible to vote, a PLP spokesman said in a press release.

In 1980, there were 31,173 registered voters as opposed to the 29,958 who are eligible to vote in Thursday's election.

The spokesman pointed out that at the Constitutional Conference of 1979, it was agreed by the PLP, the United Bermuda Party and the British Government that the United Kingdom system of voter registration would be adopted.

"In the UK, registration forms are sent out during the month of September to be completed before October 10," the release said. "The Government employs canvassers who go to individual households to collect all forms that have not been returned. The list, which becomes operative in February, can be amended at any time during the course of the

year."

"This is not the procedure that has been followed in Bermuda. In fact, the low level of registration rate that exists today was set in motion when the present Premier was the Minister responsible for registration. He was therefore, collectively and personally responsible for engineering an election that will see hundreds of citizens made ineligible to vote.

"During a ZBM News broadcast on January 28, one of the UBP's candidates for Hamilton West confessed that one of the reasons their party was hoping for an election victory was based upon the low voter registration. What a corrupt statement.

"We regard voting and the electoral process as being fundamental to the authority of Government and the whole process of law and order. It is the constitutional cornerstone on which Bermuda's future stability depends.

"Playing games with elections is not a joke, and we call on those electors who were fortunate enough not to be removed from the electoral rolls to reflect their support for proper elections when they go to the polls."

'GAZETTE' Editorial Comment

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 4 Feb 83 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

Premier John Swan has his mandate. Perhaps he has a bit more than his mandate because the UBP would probably have been secure with a gain of three seats. For some time now the UBP has been predicting 26 seats and a possible 29. Few quite believed that but it has proved to be exactly true.

Premier Swan today must be extremely pleased at capturing two seats in Hamilton West and holding St. George's North. But the real pleasure must have come in regaining the Hon. Quinton Edness in Warwick West and capturing a seat in Warwick East. The latter left The Royal Gazette with "egg on its face" since we had not even featured the constituency as a marginal area.

It has been clear since the selection of John Swan as Premier that the mood of the Country changed. There was a more flamboyant atmosphere despite the effects of the recession, declined tourism, job problems and the housing shortage.

In the first months of his Premiership John Swan convinced the Country that it could be proud and could go forward. He said he had a vision and people believed him. His vision was a united and proud Bermuda working together to solve our problems.

Working on that, it became clear early last autumn that there would be an election, perhaps even before Christmas. This relatively young man and the first Bermudian-born black to lead the Country, simply offered to help people and asked people to give him the votes he needed to secure his position and move on with his vision. The people did just that in a resounding manner.

Mr. Swan staked his political future on a highly personalised campaign based on his huge popularity, and he triumphed.

Now, of course, he will be asked to deliver the vision and that may not be easy.

He will have the votes to enact just about any legislation he wishes without fear of a House defeat. However, if the recession worsens, tourism fails to improve, exempt

companies continue to be restless and predicted joblessness turns into fact, he may be so busy shoring up the economy that he cannot address himself to the social promises he has made.

Clearly the first solution must come in the area of housing. Sub-standard housing and outdoor privies are unacceptable in a wealthy Country in 1983.

He stood in Pembroke Dump and made promises which he must deliver.

There were guarantees given to the people of Middletown and those must be fulfilled.

Drugs must take high priority and perhaps Bermuda could try to show the rest of a drug-ridden Western World how to make meaningful progress.

Those are only some of the specifics and relatively easy to solve compared to the difficult challenge. That challenge will come in translating a vision into unity, social advancement and fulfilled expectations.

There is no doubt Premier Swan has the chance and he must grab that chance and move forward firmly. There may never be another such chance.

But he has taken the United Bermuda Party, which in December 1980 seemed to be in grave trouble, and given it a new lease on life. It may well be that he can take his mandate and use that as a milestone toward a future of togetherness.

There seems little doubt that Premier Swan will get a large political assist from a Progressive Labour Party which must this morning be in disarray. Since 1972 the PLP has made substantial inroads on the UBP's majority. This is the first time that the UBP has been able to strike back at the polls and clearly the blow was severe both in terms of seats and popular vote.

We think Mrs. Lois Browne Evans will be under severe pressure to allow another leader to revitalise the shaken PLP.

Perhaps the PLP, which ran a lack-lustre campaign and did appear to dwell on yesterday as opposed to a vision for the future, will have to readjust itself to a changing Country. That will not be easy but with 14 House seats and a solid vote it is still an extremely viable Opposition.

Today we think it is important for the UBP to remember that its mandate is based on the future. Celebrate and settle down. Do not be carried away. Do not become inflated or arrogant. There is a great deal of hard work to be done.

Much is expected of you and much must be achieved for your opportunity is now.

Analysis of Poll Results

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 4 Feb 83 p 6

[Text]

The result of the 1983 election puts the UBP back in the same position in the House of Assembly that it was in after the 1976 vote — holding 26 seats compared to the 14 of the PLP.

But this time the Government's share of the popular vote has increased, although only slightly. In 1976 it won its seats with 55.4 percent of the popular vote, while the PLP took 44.5 percent of the votes. The remaining 0.1 percent went to the Independent candidates, but of course yesterday it was a two-horse race.

This election saw the UBP get 56.6 percent of the popular vote, while the PLP dropped to 43.4 percent. But the balance of power in the House now is not as clear a reflection of the overall vote as the last election's result produced.

For the UBP's 26 seats represent 65 percent of House strength, as against the 56.6 percent of voter support. The PLP meanwhile has only 35 percent of the House strength although it gained 43.4 percent of the popular vote.

The number of registered voters at this election was 29,958, down 1,215 on 1980. Of that number, 24,154 voted, a percentage turnout of 80.6, compared to 1980 when 24,736 people voted, a turnout of 79.4 percent.

The turnout was the biggest since 1968, when there was an amazing turnout of 91.2 percent.

The total number of votes cast yesterday was 47,846, of which 27,081 went to the UBP and 20,765 to the PLP.

In 1980 a total of 48,786 votes were cast, of which the UBP took 26,292, the PLP took 22,452, and three independents mustered only 42 votes, all losing their deposits.

This time it would appear that seven candidates, all PLP, will lose their \$250 deposits for failing to gain at least one-eighth of all the votes cast. Certainly Mrs. Aurelia Burch and Mr. Michael Martin, the PLP candidates in Paget

East, who got only 4.4 and 4.7 percent of the vote respectively will lose their money.

So too will Mr. Charles Bean and Mr. Austin Wade in Smith's North, and Mr. Calvin Wales in St. George's South.

But a controversy arose over the Paget West result. Mrs. Cynthia Aberdeen and Mr. George Byron scored 11.9 and 11.8 percent of the vote respectively, a fraction short of the necessary 12.5 percent to keep a deposit. But 19 ballot papers from the advance poll in Paget East somehow got into the Paget West ballot box.

Mrs. Aberdeen and Mr. Byron are sure to claim the mix-up could have worked against them and so argue they should be allowed to keep their cash.

The deciding factor in the 1980 election was a split ticket in two marginal constituencies — Hamilton East and Warwick West, which went against the national trend of strict party voting.

This time Hamilton East was split again, with Mr. Gilbert Darrell (PLP) and Mr. Haskins Davis (UBP), who both have loyal followings in the area, keeping their seats. But that split was not of such importance this year.

Warwick West voters put both seats back in the hands of the UBP, yet over the border in Warwick East there was a split which proved important with Mr. Irving Pearman winning one while Mr. Walter Brangman retained the other for the PLP.

The fact that all four candidates in Warwick East were separated by a spread of only 19 votes makes it the most marginal of the constituencies this time. It is followed by Hamilton West where the UBP scored a resounding success in a constituency previously held by two PLP men.

Although the UBP took both, the spread here was only 29 votes which clearly makes it a battleground in the next election. The only other constituency that now appears to fall into the category of marginal is Pembroke East Central, formerly a PLP stronghold.

Here Mr. Robert Barritt and Mr. Lawson Mapp of the UBP were just 50 votes behind Mr. Stanley Morton and Dr. Barbara Ball, cutting the PLP percentage vote from 56 to 52. But voter registration was down from 1,957 in 1980 to 1,683 this time, a difference of 274.

The PLP had high hopes of capturing at least one seat in St. George's North where its candidates Mr. Ernest (Dickie) Drew and Ms. Jen-

nifer Smith looked sure to improve on their 1980 performance. But, in fact, they increased their share of the vote by only 1.1 percent.

The seat may in future be regarded as marginal, but it looked as if the PLP were ever going to take over it would have been this time around.

A corresponding disappointment for the UBP was Sandys North. There was optimism that either Mr. Paul Leseur or Mr. Colin Pearman could grab one of the seats from the Mr. Eugene Cox-Mr. Lionel Simmons combination.

But the PLP pair's share of the vote dropped only fractionally, from 56.9 percent to 56 percent. So the four Somerset seats have clearly been confirmed as PLP strongholds.

Constituencies that can now be regarded as UBP strongholds are Southampton West, Pembroke West, Pembroke West Central, Smith's South, Smith's North, Paget West, Paget East, Devonshire South, St. George's South, and probably Warwick West and St. George's North.

The PLP can still feel confident about Sandys North, Sandys South, Southampton East, Pembroke East, and Devonshire North.

Minimal Shift to PLP

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Only three of the 20 constituencies in last week's election showed a swing towards the Opposition Progressive Labour Party--St. George's North, Paget East and Sandys South.

Voters in all other areas swung towards the United Bermuda Party, with the biggest change in voting coming in Devonshire North, a staunch PLP stronghold and the seats of PLP leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans and her deputy until two days ago, Mr. Frederick Wade.

The constituency showed a 7.7 percent swing to the UBP, pulled off by Government candidates Mr. Walter Cross and Mr. Kenneth Daniels.

The PLP candidates whose results bucked the national trend were Ms. Jennifer Smith and Mr. Ernest (Dickie) Drew in St. George's with a 1.1 percent swing to the Opposition, Mrs. Aurelia Burch and Mr. Michael Martin in Paget East (1 percent), and Mr. Walter Lister and Mr. Walter Roberts in Sandys South (0.8 percent).

The overall swing to the UBP was 2.7 percent, with 56.6 percent of the electorate voting UBP and 43.4 percent voting PLP.

The second biggest constituency swing for the UBP was in Pembroke West, where the Hon. David Gibbons and the Hon. William McPhee defeated Mrs. Doreen Lightbourn and Mrs. Rita Peniston with a swing of 7 percent.

Third was Hamilton West with a 5.1 percent swing to the UBP as Dr. George Thomas and Mr. Maxwell Burgess ousted PLP incumbents Mr. Arthur Hodgson and Mr. Calvin Smith.

The swings in other constituencies were: Warwick East, 4.9, Pembroke East Central, 3.9, Smith's South, 3.4, Smith's North, 3.1, St. George's South, 3.1, Warwick West, 2.9, Paget West, 2.4, Pembroke West Central, 2.4, Pembroke East, 2.2, Southampton West, 2.1, Southampton East, 1.3, Devonshire South, 1.2, Sandys North, 0.9, and Hamilton East, 0.8.

PLP Registration Protest

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 11 Feb 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] The Progressive Labour Party promised yesterday to protest "at the highest level" over Government's alleged failure to implement the Warwick Camp agreement on voter registration.

Party spokesman Mr. David Allen said last night that the PLP is "certainly considering" making representations to London over the issue and he predicted further developments soon.

His comments followed the release of a PLP statement charging Government with wilful neglect of its duty to implement the registration system adopted at the 1979 Constitutional Conference at Warwick Camp.

The statement aimed particular criticism at the Premier the Hon. John Swan who "failed to carry out the agreement" dur-

ing two years as Minister of Home Affairs.

It also expressed concern over the role of the Governor Sir Richard Posnett, who led the UK delegation to the Constitutional Conference.

The statement said: "Despite previous calls by the PLP urging Government to live up to the commitment it made at Warwick Camp, it has instead adopted an attitude of wilful neglect, which resulted in over 1,200 voters registered at the time of the 1980 General Election not being on the voters' rolls for last Thursday's General Election."

United Bermuda Party, PLP and UK delegations to the Warwick Camp conference agreed to adopt the UK system of voter registration — a point repeated in Government's own covering letter to eligible voters which was mailed with registration forms last month.

Under UK rules, the registration office should make "house-to-house" or other

sufficient inquiry" to ensure that people entitled to register send back their forms. Canvassers should "make sure that no premises have been overlooked".

UK regulations also call for a second mailing of special follow-up forms to be sent to eligible voters who have not returned the original forms.

Said the PLP: "Clearly the UBP Government has not ensured that a second mailing has been made to those eligible voters not returning their initial forms and it has not instituted a canvass of all households in connection with voter registration.

"The PLP takes the gravest possible view of Government's failure to implement the Constitutional Conference agreement and intends to make further representations at the highest level.

"It is also concerned that the Governor Sir Richard Posnett, in response to a protest made just prior to last week's General Election, claimed that the UK system of voter registration was be-

ing carried out in Bermuda when this is obviously not the case.

"Furthermore, it is the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs which includes the Parliamentary Registrar's Office to ensure that the UK registration system is implemented.

"Yet for two years, while Minister of Home Affairs, Premier Swan failed to carry out this agreement, which formed part of a compromise formula at the Warwick Camp Constitutional Conference."

The PLP also announced yesterday that they will be holding a special public meeting next Tuesday to thank party supporters. It will also discuss the question of registration — considered a key influence on the crushing election defeat.

The meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. at Prospect Primary School hall, Devonshire. Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans will lead the list of speakers which includes other PLP candidates.

Government Probe

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

The Home Affairs Ministry is conducting an investigation into the system of voter registration in the wake of protests made by the Opposition Progressive Labour Party.

Home Affairs Minister the Hon. Sir John Sharpe confirmed that the system was being reexamined and "in due course" he expected to issue a further statement.

"My understanding is that, in fact, the registration system we use very closely follows the UK system. I suspect that even after reexamination we will find it generally appropriate to the small size of Bermuda.

"But we will reexamine to see whether

any improvements can be made because our objective is, and has always been, to see that everybody eligible to vote can be registered."

Sir John termed the investigation an "interim response" to the complaints of the PLP that Government has shown "willful neglect" in implementing the 1979 Warwick Camp voter registration agreement.

The PLP has claimed that low voter registration was a key influence on the General Election results.

Voters rolls for last week's unexpected election were down by some 1,200 on the list for the 1980 General Election.

PLP Charge of Inequity

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

Bermuda must not move towards Independence under an unfair and inequitable electoral system, Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans said last night.

"It would make a mockery of what is called Independence," she told about 100 Progressive Labour Party supporters at a thank-the-voters meeting at Prospect Primary School.

In a speech lashing the present electoral system, which the Party believes cost them the recent General Election, Mrs. Browne Evans said she had two major dreams, a PLP government and Independence.

"I believe we have been a catalyst to move this country forward so far along the road," she said. "In the next four years you will see a greater movement by the other side towards Independence."

It was then that she sounded a warning that changes in the electoral system were vital.

The party leader said her own area, Devonshire North, typified why single seat constituencies should be introduced. Proportionately the PLP did not get sufficient representation in Parliament, she said.

"This proves to me that until we make constituencies smaller and have single seats we will not have results truly representative of each vote having equal value. We have been talking about this since 1968 and the PLP will go on talking about it."

Fronting 12 other candidates, Mrs. Browne Evans said her party scored a moral victory at Warwick Camp when it was agreed that the electoral registration system should be similar to Great Britain's.

"You will hear people say we have the same system, but how can you have something in theory but not in practice and not carry out the spirit of it to the full. It is Government's duty to see that as many people are registered as humanly possible."

It was believed by everyone, she said, that it was the political parties' responsibility to ensure registration was carried out.

Mrs. Browne Evans denied that she was "belly aching" or crying sour grapes and asserted that sportsmanship was hailed by the PLP. But the regis-

tration system played a key factor in the defeat, she said.

The number of people not registered to vote last month — 1,215 out of a possible 31,000 — was "shocking and appalling".

The leader again slammed the United Bermuda Party for conducting a slick propaganda and media campaign and again brought up overseas newspaper reports on how the ruling party fought the 1980 election.

The articles said the 60 percent black population had to be fooled into believing that the "elite" had changed its image, said Mrs. Browne Evans.

"When I saw that it was sad," she said. "I could still feel like weeping for our people that this could be used in the '80s to trick our people. How could we be sucked in like that article said?"

JAMES CHOSEN DEPUTY PREMIER; SENATE MEMBERSHIP NAMED

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

The Hon. Clarence James, Minister of Health and Social Services, was yesterday elected as deputy Premier by the United Bermuda Party's parliamentary group.

Dr. James was, as expected, the only candidate for the post. Mrs. Ann Cartwright DeCouto was elected as UBP Caucus chairman.

The complete, 13-strong Cabinet now consists of: The Premier, the Hon. John Swan; Minister of Home Affairs, the Hon. Sir John Sharpe; Minister of Finance, the Hon. David Gibbons; Minister of Tourism, the Hon. C.V. (Jim) Woolridge; Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Clarence James; Minister of Works, Housing, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Hon. Quinton Edness; Minister of Transport, the Hon. William McPhee; Minister of Educa-

tion, the Hon. William Cox; Minister of Planning and the Environment, the Hon. Haskins Davis; Minister of Youth, Sport and Community Affairs, the Hon. Irving Pearman; Minister of Industry and Technology, the Hon. John Stubbs; Minister of Legislative Affairs, the Hon. Ernest Vesey; Minister without Portfolio, the Hon. Charles Collis.

The Senate has three members appointed by the Governor, five appointed by Government and three appointed by the Opposition. They are, in that order: Sen. Hugh Richardson, Sen. Stanley Gascoigne, Sen. Arnott Jackson, Sen. Charles Collis, Sen. Gerald Simons, Sen. Llewellyn Peniston, Sen. Robert Barritt, Sen. Paul Leseur, Sen. David Allen, Sen. Charles Bean and Sen. Jennifer Smith.

CSO: 3298/407

PLP ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF COVERUP IN POSNETT CASH AFFAIR

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 7 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] Government was last night accused of a cover-up over the inquiry into financial affairs at Government House that has led to Britain being told Governor Sir Richard Posnett must go.

The Opposition Progressive Labour Party said "serious questions" were raised by the fact that the affair became public only after last week's general election in which the United Bermuda Party was returned with an increased majority.

The PLP also demanded an immediate, full explanation of the matter from Government.

Sir Richard arrived in London yesterday and was whisked from Heathrow Airport to an unknown destination in a Foreign and Commonwealth Office limousine. An FCO spokesman confirmed Sir Richard's arrival but refused to make any further comment.

It is understood the Governor will be meeting senior FCO officials today.

Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons will be meeting Mr. John Ure, assistant under secretary at the FCO, tomorrow to discuss the affair. Mr. Gibbons said at the weekend that, pending the FCO decision, Government had asked that Sir Richard, 63, be recalled.

The PLP said it was "gravely concerned" over the alleged misuse of public funds by the Governor, and the manner in which Government had handled the matter.

"It is now apparent that the Bermudian public would

still be in the dark if the facts had not come to light in the British news media and at a press conference held by the FCO in London, thus forcing the UBP Government of Bermuda to make its first public disclosure on this affair last Friday," said a PLP spokesman.

"Other serious questions are raised, since this information only came to light the very day after Bermuda's general election, even though the Government, it now admits, had known of the alleged misuse of funds many months previously.

"The fundamental concern raised is the fact that the alleged misuse of funds by the Governor involved public monies contributed by Bermudian taxpayers, accountability for which is squarely the concern of the Ministry of Finance, and for which the Swan Cabinet bears collective responsibility under our system of responsible government."

The PLP said that the manner in which "this deplorable situation" had

been kept from the public contradicted pledges by the Premier, the Hon. John Swan, to conduct an open Government.

"The PLP therefore now calls on Government to give full disclosure of the alleged misuse of public funds by the Governor forthwith," said the spokesman.

Government is expected to respond to the PLP statement early this week.

Deputy Governor Mr. Brian Watkins was yesterday sworn in as Acting Governor, but there is no indication as to how long he will continue in that role, nor who will be greeting the Queen when she arrives next Sunday for a brief stop on her way to a Caribbean tour.

Sir Richard arrived at the airport on Saturday night in his official Daimler, accompanied by his wife, Shirley, and Mr. Charles Wilkes, a friend of the Governor who is

currently a guest at Government House.

A gate in the perimeter fence was opened for the car to drive out on to the tarmac where the Governor boarded the British Airways flight.

Mr. Gibbons has said that there had been concern over Government House expenses for several months. An inquiry suggested that items were being charged to the \$27,500 entertainment allowance that had not been charged in the past. There was also concern over first-class airline tickets being exchanged for a cheaper class, with the difference being recouped.

Two FCO officials visited Bermuda last month to discuss the matter. Attorney General Saul Froomkin has said he has looked at the matter and is currently considering what action, if any, should be taken.

CSO: 3298/407

PARTIES MOVE TO SHIFT PERSONNEL IN KEY POSITIONS

New PLP Deputy

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 7 Feb 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Lawyer Mr. Frederick Wade last night lost his bid to be re-elected as Deputy Leader of the Progressive Labour Party — the office he has held for nearly seven years.

He was beaten by Sandys North MP Mr. Eugene Cox in a close vote of the PLP's Parliamentary group and some 50 delegates from branches throughout the Island.

But the PLP Leader, Mrs. Lois Browne Evans, received an overwhelming vote of confidence, comfortably dismissing the challenge to her title from Hamilton East MP Mr. Gilbert Darrell.

In her re-acceptance speech, Mrs. Browne Evans paid a warm tribute to Mr. Wade and his work for the PLP over the years.

Mr. Wade accepted his defeat philosophically. "We are a democratic party and I accept the will of the majority," he said. "We will work together to strengthen the PLP between now and the next general election."

"I will have more time for my practice now, which has taken a tremendous beating over the last two years."

Asked whether he had been made a scapegoat for last Thursday's crushing defeat at the polls, he replied

only: "The voters of the party have spoken."

The switch in Deputy Leadership was the only change to emerge from the meetings at the PLP Court Street headquarters last night.

Before the leadership vote, the party's central committee met to recommend the three Opposition members of the Senate.

Incumbents Mr. Charles Bean, Miss Jennifer Smith and Mr. David Allen were all re-selected.

According to Mr. Allen, the three were all given a "very clear" majority over their four challengers, who were Mr. Ernest (Dickie) Drew, Mr. Richard Lynch, and two of the MPs who were unseated last week, Mr. Calvin Smith and Mr. Eugene Blakeney.

PLP chairman Mr. Alex Scott commented: "I am heartened to have the leader back with us and I am very happy to look forward to working with Mr. Cox."

"I'm somewhat saddened that Mr. Wade is stepping down because of the sheer bulk of work he has accomplished over the past six years. But I believe he is a team player and we will see his energies surface in

another area of the party.

"I also believe that the shift in the post of Deputy Leader can bring new blood to the leadership team of the party hierarchy. It is receiving a new infusion."

Mr. Cox was Shadow Minister of Finance in the last PLP Shadow Cabinet. Mr. Wade was the Shadow Minister of Home Affairs.

It is expected that Mrs. Browne Evans will announce her new Shadow Cabinet early this week.

Last night's leadership vote was the first under the amended constitution of the PLP which required the election of the leader and deputy at a special conference to be held within 72 hours of a general election.

Battle Over UBP Deputy

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 11 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

The United Bermuda Party, fresh from a resounding election victory which was helped by the party's public appearance of unity, looks set for the first internal battle of its new term.

The Hon. C.V. (Jim) Woolridge, Minister of Tourism, is to be challenged for his post as deputy Premier. And the challenger is believed to be the Hon. Quinton Edness, the Minister of Community Affairs, who regained his Warwick West seat in last week's election.

The UBP Caucus met yesterday and re-selected Mr. John Barritt as their choice for Speaker. The Speaker is elected by the whole House of Assembly, but with the UBP holding a majority of 12 there seems little chance of him not getting the job.

The Caucus also made Mr. Henry Hayward their choice again as party Whip, and although the appointment is subject to consultation with the Opposition Progressive Labour Party, he seems sure to retain the

post.

The Hon. John Swan was, not surprisingly, reaffirmed as Parliamentary leader.

But a decision on the deputy was postponed until next week's Caucus meeting.

Certainly there is a strong movement in the group to see Mr. Edness get the position, and Mr. Swan is believed to be among them.

Mr. Woolridge had planned to run for the Premiership when the Hon. David Gibbons resigned more than a year ago. He eventually pulled out, leaving the way clear for Mr. Swan.

But another faction in the Caucus are Woolridge supporters and they are sure to bitterly oppose any attempts to remove him from the deputy slot.

A decision must be made before the House returns next Friday, so there will be intensive lobbying by both groups in the next few days.

The Caucus is made up of the elected MPs, Senators and officers of the party.

ONLY ONE CHANGE, IN EDUCATION, IN PLP SHADOW CABINET

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

"Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans yesterday announced an almost unchanged Shadow Cabinet with only one alteration to the previous line-up.

The single change is in the Education portfolio which was held by Mr. Arthur Hodgson before he lost his Hamilton West seat in the General Election.

Education will now be represented jointly by Mrs. Browne Evans herself and Mr. Ottiwell Simmons, who was assistant to the former Shadow Minister in the last Parliament.

Mrs. Browne Evans' decision was explained in a statement issued by the Progressive Labour Party.

"With the major Parliamentary Budget debate due to begin in two weeks, and the attendant in-depth discussion of each Ministry, the PLP Leader thought it best not to make any major changes, especially since a major Shadow Cabinet reshuffle took place only ten months ago.

"The experience gained by Shadow Ministers in portfolios since that date would be needed in the upcoming debate."

Mrs. Browne Evans will review Shadow Cabinet appointments following the

Budget debate; the statement said.

The announcement of the Shadow Cabinet comes a day after the Premier unveiled a re-shuffled Cabinet, creating two new Ministries.

Industry and Technology, and Legislative Affairs.

For the time being at least there are no Shadow Ministers for the two new portfolios.

The PLP Shadow Cabinet lines up as follows: Mr. Eugene Cox, Shadow Minister of Finance; Mr. Frederick Wade, Shadow Minister of Home Affairs; Mr. Walter Roberts, Shadow Minister of Transport; Mr. Lionel Simmons, Shadow Minister of Youth and Sports; Mr. Reginald Burrows, Shadow Minister of Community Affairs; Mr. Walter Lister, Shadow Minister of Planning; Mr. Walter Brangman, Shadow Minister of Works, Housing, Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. Stanley Morton, Shadow Minister of Tourism; Mr. Austin Thomas, Shadow Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mrs. Browne Evans was re-elected PLP Leader on February 6, when Mr. Cox was voted in as Deputy Leader replacing Mr. Wade.

Last week Mr. Gilbert Darrell was elected unop-

posed as PLP Parliamentary Whip by the 14 PLP MPs, three Opposition Senators and four representatives of the party's central committee.

Re-appointed as PLP Leader in the Senate was Mr. Charles Bean, who continues as PLP Senate spokesman for Home Affairs and Transport. Senator David Allen is the spokesman for Finance, Tourism, Planning and Housing, Works, Agriculture and Fisheries. Senator Jennifer Smith is spokesman for Health and Social Services, Community Affairs, Youth and Sport and Education.

CSO: 3298/407

SWAN ORDERED FOREIGN STUDY OF NATION'S SOCIAL SYSTEM

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Feb 83 p 3

[Text]

Bermuda's social system came under the microscope of a team of four North American social scientists last autumn — at the invitation of Government.

The team's examination of race relations, education, the family, housing, crime, Casemates Prison and the Bermuda Police Force found many unresolved social problems — chiefly relating to race, but also class.

Last night Premier John Swan brought up the report at a UBP meeting at Warwick Secondary School and later issued a prepared statement which said: "The memorandum has been under study by Government since its submission on September 28, 1982. It will form the basis for further study and for the development of the kind of thorough research programme that will assist us in defining new policies to enhance our quality of life. The memorandum is just a first step in that process."

Elsewhere in the statement, Mr Swan said: "When I became Premier, I was determined to develop new approaches to the formulation of public policy to deal with the social issues of concern in our Country. I believed then and I believe now that the only way to begin to find solutions to our social problems is to face up to them, to analyse them

and to find the policies to deal with them. I am also determined to have a fresh and objective view of Bermudian society both to identify the issues, to identify the problems and to assist us in developing new policies."

The report's recurring comment was that in order to even begin to resolve the problems, Government must gather additional information from its citizens — data relating to race, class and distribution of income and the personal and social satisfactions of white and black Bermudians.

The team comprised political scientist Professor Ted Gurr of Northwestern University, Illinois; sociologists, Professor Wardell Payne of Howard University, Washington D.C.; Professor James Loewen of the University of Vermont and Dr. Elizabeth Jane Campbell of Campbell Research Associates, Mississauga, Ontario.

Among their findings — which are detailed in a 53-page report that is in the possession of The Royal Gazette and which is being used by radio and TV — was that, despite its prosperity, Bermuda has "substantial unresolved social problems." In addition, the information gathered by Government

was inadequate for the diagnosis of many current social issues.

The team also found that as long as Bermuda's racial divisive social issues go unanalysed and unremedied, there were long-term prospects for civil disorders.

The four, whose reports include recommendation of how to solve the problems, were invited here by Mr. David Critchley, Permanent Secretary for Health and Social Services, on the instructions of Premier Swan.

They visited Bermuda from September 12 to 18 and besides reading documents and studies about Bermudian social and economic issues, they interviewed "a large number of officials and civil servants". "Our informants," said their report, "include some people with non-governmental viewpoints, including members of the Human Rights Commission and staff at the Bermuda College. The report itself points out that it is preliminary in nature because of the limited time available for consultation, seven days, and the limited scope of the inquiry. The memorandum states: "We regard our consultations as limited and selective because we had no occasion to discuss social issues or information needs with representatives of business or labour, or any political or social groups not represented in Government."

First on the list of social issues was that of race and the team's comment was: "In no way is Bermuda still segregated legally, but institutional racism seems to persist, along with the residue of past legal discrimination."

Given Bermuda's history of segregation up to the recent past and the rapidity of change since the 1960s, it would be surprising, said the report, if there were not

strains in the racial relations.

Race seemed to play a major role "as an independent variable in Bermudian society". It influences where one lives, what church one joins, which secondary school one attends, one's scores on United States college entrance examinations and the likelihood that one will do time in Casemates Prison.

Although black Bermudians could buy homes anywhere in Bermuda, the team noted the existence of residential areas that were all-white or all-black. The proportion of employed whites holding white-collar positions was three times the proportion of blacks, who held 14 percent of such jobs. Remarking that the day was not yet here when whites could speak for blacks with regard to such topics, the report expressed surprise that some offices provided only white officials to talk to its members.

"Since it was likely that we would be interested to learn how these institutions were perceived by black Bermudians, a sensitive official would want black as well as white staff members to supply answers to our questions," the report said.

"To cite another example, Police administrators told us that officers did not object to being assigned a partner from an ethnic group other than their own, but said that officials did not make a practice of establishing multi-racial teams."

"This response was reassuring regarding the lack of overt racism among officers, but it was insensitive to two ways that Police practices might affect the wider community: First, the community needs to see black and whites cooperating on an equal level; Second, an inter-racial team possesses additional re-

sources, simply by dint of its racial composition, in dealing with certain kinds of disorders or offenders."

The team remarked that because schools, churches and many neighbourhoods were still largely segregated, it might be well "into the next century before white and black Bermudians could mingle with the ease that comes from having grown up together rather than separately".

The team did note that Bermuda had moved beyond North America in race relations. This comment was tempered with the remark: "This can provide only faint comfort, since the United States and Canada hardly constitute models of fairness along racial lines."

"We suggest that the workshop first be held within the Ministry of Health and Social Services, whose leadership seems aware that communications problems sometimes exist across racial lines."

The inclusion of race and place for statistical information would enable Bermuda to compute an index of dissimilarity for its residences and its schools.

In his statement last night Mr. Swan said: "...The memorandum does identify a number of social issues as matters of concern. Frankly, the issues that are identified are not new. They include matters that have concerned me and many others for some time. Indeed, it is that kind of concern on my part that led to this new effort to search for the solutions."

"The memorandum does make some valuable suggestions concerning the kind of additional social research and information gathering that may assist us in identifying the issues more accurately, dealing with them more thoroughly and developing longer term plans and programmes."

BRIEFS

NEW DEPUTY GOVERNOR--Mr. Mark Herdman will be sworn in on Monday as both the Deputy and Acting Governor, The Royal Gazette understands. It is expected that Government House will issue a statement announcing the ceremony this weekend. The news ends speculation that the present Deputy Governor, Mr. Brian Watkins, would extend his stay in Bermuda because of the absence of the Governor Sir Richard Posnett. Mr. Watkins, who was due to finish as Deputy this month and to leave in March, has been Acting Governor since Sir Richard flew to London last weekend following the investigation into alleged financial irregularities at Government House. Sir Richard was still in London yesterday holding discussions with British Government officials, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) reported. Yesterday morning he was joined by his wife, Lady Posnett, who left Bermuda on the British Airways Thursday night flight to London. "Sir Richard Posnett is remaining in London for consultations for the time being," said a FCO spokesman. "We have no further comment at all."

[Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Feb 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/408

PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO ADDRESSES NATION ON ECONOMIC CRISIS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Mar 83 p 29

[Speech by President Joao Figueiredo; given in Brasilia on 28 February]

[Text] Brasilia--President Joao Figueiredo acknowledged yesterday, in an address to the nation on the economic crisis, that "the rise in prices of imported goods has inflationary effects which the government is seeking to neutralize by a policy the success of which depends on the responsibility and social conscience of the businessmen." He added that the devaluation of the cruzeiro was "a strong measure with broad consequences and for that reason the government took care to surround it with a number of provisions that seek to attenuate its undesirable effects." It is essential, added President Figueiredo, "that we not slacken our vigilance with a view to preventing the devaluation from detrimentally upsetting the national economy."

The chief executive declared that he has directed that the sacrifices which the situation entails "be distributed equally, not imposed on these or those groups, paying special attention to the need to protect the weakest." He added that "the rule that all are equal in terms of public or social duties must be understood according to postulates of justice, especially social justice." President Figueiredo repeated the argument that Brazil is one of the victims of the world economic crisis but he said he hoped that it "will soon come to an end" because there are already "signs on the horizon indicating a return to the road to prosperity."

According to presidential palace spokesman, Carlos Atila, Figueiredo delivered an address "to the ministers," which was broadcast by radio and television "because of the interest of the communications media." After the reading, Figueiredo quickly retired to the library in the side room; there, he had coffee with the ministers and received a congratulatory telephone call from Vice President Aureliano Chaves. None of the ministers knew the content of the address except for Delfim Netto and Ernane Galveas who, according to presidential palace sources, were the principal collaborators in drafting the presidential speech.

Following is the full text of the speech delivered in Brasilia yesterday by President Figueiredo:

Honorable ministers: In words addressed to the nation, still in the early days of my administration, I drew a realistic picture of the aggravation of the difficulties that most concerned me on the economic-financial level and identified some of the principal aspects of the situation in which we were placed by the development of the world crisis caused by the first oil crisis. At the same time, I described the measures that were essential to confront it as it presented itself. Certain measures continued previous policy, others, due to the different profile of the facts, assumed a different nature. As a whole, the government action was aimed at the following objectives: to reduce the public deficit, balance the foreign accounts, reduce the indebtedness of the public enterprises, gradually eliminate the subsidies, alleviate the national dependence on imported fuel, stimulate agriculture and promote the growth of the economy.

Pressed by the international juncture, I announced the devaluation of currency of accentuated proportions. I explained the reasons for that measure. I showed its scope and its effects which, in my view, would help to sustain the flow of funds that finance our deficit in current transactions.

If the economic and financial picture had not undergone a major change in terms of its basic features, the measures put into practice would have yielded the fruits that were expected of them, among them control of the inflationary spiral.

However, the world crisis, instead of abating continued to deepen in an alarming manner due in large part to the new wave of oil price increases.

An awareness of the crisis, of its dramatic nature, unleashed a movement of individual self-defense on the part of the industrialized countries. Feeling their economic structure threatened by the greatest crisis since the great depression of 1930, the developed nations in 1981 and 1982 adopted a rigid policy to stabilize prices and to equilibrate balances of payments. The relative success of that policy was obtained at the expense of economic stagnation, general unemployment in their own countries and the consequent reduction of foreign trade. There are about 30 million unemployed in those countries at the present time, a figure that can rise to 35 million by the end of this year.

The current crisis did not hit only the countries of the Western world. The economic crisis is also generalized in the socialist countries. The requests for renegotiation of the foreign debt, already formulated, eloquently confirm that statement.

In searching to rebalance their foreign accounts, the industrialized nations began to adopt a policy of a protectionist nature, which caused an appreciable drop in demand and stagnation of the foreign market. The recessive picture was accompanied by a rise of international interest rates to unprecedented levels.

As for the developing countries, the situation became dramatic. They had to bear the initial brunt of the rise in the price of oil and the drastic reduction of their exports.

All of that had broad repercussions on our economy. The price of exported products dropped appreciably while the price of imported goods rose. Interest on foreign loans rose, almost all of them contracted to attenuate the shock of the international crisis, beginning in 1974, and to provide continuity for the policy of development capable of insuring employment and the well-being of the Brazilians. To the difficulties on the commercial level was added the liquidity crisis, the reflection also of the collapse that had occurred in the international financial system.

The war in the South Atlantic, the pessimism that surrounded the meeting of the financial community at the Toronto meeting, and the nonpayment of debts by developing countries as well as by large companies of industrialized nations, all of that contributed to stanching the flow of loans to the countries with a balance of payments deficit.

Being members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), we had to resort to it in the face of the financial problems that afflicted us. With the help of friendly countries, we are negotiating with the international banking system for the flow of loans that will enable Brazil to overcome that grave and prolonged crisis.

Sounding out the financial market revealed that, during the current year, loans would only be available in a substantially smaller volume than in previous years.

In this setting, it behooved Brazil to mobilize itself to generate a substantial surplus in its international exchanges in order to prevent the collapse of our foreign accounts. To guarantee this objective, it was necessary to revise the exchange rate. It is well to observe how our trade partners have conducted themselves in that regard. The United States succeeded in drastically reducing its domestic inflation. With the dollar strengthened, between the end of 1979 and December 1982, the combined European and Japanese currencies underwent an accumulated devaluation of about 29 percent in relation to the dollar. The French franc, for example, was devaluated 40 percent; the German mark by almost 30 percent; and the pound sterling by 25 percent. As a consequence, the competitive power of countries such as Brazil, whose exports are destined predominantly for countries outside the dollar area. It should be noted that once the Spanish and Swedish socialist governments were installed, they likewise devaluated their currencies.

This phenomenon, coupled with the growing difficulties in exporting, in view of the deepening of the recession and the drop of the prices of basic goods, left the developing countries notably those of Latin America, with no other alternative but to follow the same process of devaluation of their currencies.

Spanish-American countries, among them our most important trade partners, were obliged to devalue their currencies during the past year by rates the accumulated variation of which exceeded 60 percent.

I would be happy if I could announce that, unlike the others, our currency will remain immune to the effects of the world recession. Nothing would please me more than to be able to say that we are atop the problems that are weighing down the other countries in the economic and social area. The truth, however, that needs to be said, simply and honestly, is that the crisis did not spare us; the fact is that, as in the case of others, the substantial devaluation of the currency was the inevitable course that remained to us to regain competitiveness and to insure our position in the market.

What are the consequences that we expect from the devaluation of the currency? It should remunerate our products with more cruzeiros, making them more competitive and occasioning the expansion of our sales abroad. On the other hand, it makes imports more expensive, discouraging consumption and encouraging the substitution of imported goods by national products.

It is true that the rise in the prices of imported goods has inflationary effects which the government is seeking to neutralize by a policy the success of which depends on the responsibility and social conscience of the businessmen. In stimulating exports, we will maintain or will create jobs for our workers, strengthen our industry and accrue funds to meet our commitments.

Devaluation is a strong measure with broad consequences. For that very reason, the government took care to surround it with a number of provisions that seek to attenuate its undesirable effects. While on the one hand, it discourages speculation against the national currency, on the other hand, it severely affects other private and public companies that are debtors in foreign currency. However, as I have already emphasized, the new parity represents a notable stimulus for the expansion of our sales and the substitution of imports.

It is essential that we not slacken our vigilance with a view to preventing the devaluation from detrimentally upsetting the national economy. No effort will be spared to guard the interests of the community against that risk. The list of measures that must be coordinated for that purpose is growing. In addition to the assistance that will be extended to the situation of the companies that contracted debts in foreign currency, as I have already said, the control of numerous products has been established; the Tax on Financial Transactions has also been reduced in order to reduce the cost of imported goods; it has also been decided, at the appropriate time, to lessen the price readjustments for oil byproducts and wheat; and we intend to force the lowering of bank interest rates, adjusting them to more tolerable levels.

I have directed that every effort be made to insure that the sacrifices which the situation entails be distributed equally, not imposed on these or those groups, paying special attention to the need to protect

the weakest. The rule that all are equal in terms of public or social duties must be understood according to postulates of justice, especially social justice.

The foreign loans we contracted should not cause us feelings of guilt. They were negotiated strictly in the interest of the country and according to objective criteria prevailing in the international market. The interest rates that were suddenly established went far beyond what one could rightfully predict, catching by surprise not only us but the debtors as a whole.

The vertical, sharp drop in the quotations of primary goods was beyond, and is still beyond our control--just as it is beyond the control of the other countries seriously affected by it--and their export at fair and reasonable prices is one of the basis of our financial stability. We are not responsible for the protectionism with which powerful nations are trying to maintain the balance of their foreign accounts by embargoing the entry of foreign goods in a policy that has been termed "every man for himself." We are not to blame for the fact that other countries, hurt by the crisis, failed to settle their debts to Brazil stemming from the importation of our products. The nonreceipt of substantial credits which we have abroad contributes in an appreciable manner to our difficulties.

In the speech I delivered before the UN General ASsembly, I warned the world community that it was urgent immediately to decide upon a combination of actions that could make it possible to overcome the crisis, the development of which had already assumed alarming proportions. Only the cooperation, the common effort of the nations, it was believed, could create conditions to return the economy to its normal state.

When I persist in declaring that we find ourselves enveloped by a world crisis, I do not mean only to reiterate a fact of which everyone is aware. I mean to emphasize that it is a crisis characterized not only by its scope but also by its unprecedented aspects. I mean to stress, above all, that we are dealing with a crisis the overcoming of which does not forego political decision. A political decision in which the world community must participate to a greater or lesser degree. A political decision that will strengthen the bonds of solidarity between the nations. A political decision that will make the real and actual cooperation between the peoples the greatest achievement of our time.

The indications that we are already moving rapidly in that direction are visible. Indications of that nature appear in the efforts that are already being coordinated to overcome the present difficulties.

The general responsibility regarding the fate of the economy does not diminish the particular responsibility that behoves us in the struggle for our economic, social and political advancement.

I am concerned about the world situation. I am more deeply concerned about Brazilian affairs. I am confident that the community of nations will be equal to the historic moment we are living through. I place the same

confidence in the Brazilians, who will respond nobly as always to the challenge of the present crisis, according to the terms dictated by their conscience.

I nurture the hope that the crisis that is shaking the world will soon come to an end. Judging from the signs that already appear on the horizon, it is in fact possible that a return to the road to prosperity will occur soon. However, prudence dictates that we prepare for a prolongation of the present situation. Thus, it behooves us, by mobilizing all of our human and material resources, to seek to adapt ourselves to the new state of affairs which the world scene presents. Accelerating the modernization of every sector of national life is the most urgent thing there is. The acceleration which circumstances impose will have to have the participation of all Brazilians who are aware of the situation and of the necessity in which we find ourselves to join efforts to guarantee our future, under the leadership of the government. For that purpose, it is necessary to invest in man and in the productive activities that generate employment. That broad objective calls for a crusade; not a temporary but a permanent one, because the duty to guarantee the tranquility of order and national happiness is permanent.

Honorable ministers: In your capacity as my immediate aides, you gentlemen keenly share the apprehensions that the present moment arouse. The collaboration and solidarity of the cabinet is constant. In the loyalty, devotion public spirit and patriotism with which the government team fulfills its lofty responsibilities lies the assurance that inspires me that my government program will be crowned with complete success, in all aspects.

8711

CSO: 3342/78

REPORTAGE CONTINUES ON DEBT TALKS WITH POLAND

Polish Antarctic Base

PY050133 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Mar 83 p 10

[Text] Brasilia--Brazil has agreed to purchase Poland's Arctowski base in the Antarctic for \$16 million (6.2 billion cruzeiros) and an icebreaker to navigate in that region for \$10 million (3.88 billion cruzeiros). The icebreaker will be ready this year. The total amount involved in the operation, \$26 million, will be charged to Brazil's credit account with Poland, which totals \$900 million debt due, plus \$700 million that is still not due, an authoritative source of the Planning Secretariat of the presidency reported yesterday. The Arctowski base was visited by the ship Barao de Teffe last January.

In the meantime, negotiations continued to identify those Polish products which Brazil could import through its credit with Poland. Poland cannot pay its debt in the short term as a result of the difficulties it is having with its balance of payments deficit, which is being managed through an adjustment program negotiated with its creditors.

Finance Ministry spokesman Pedro Luiz Rodrigues has reported that the two countries did not reach any agreement on the debt payment but agreed to carry on commercial operations in keeping with agreements signed by their own governments, whereby Brazil will continue to export iron ore to Poland in exchange for coal and sulfur.

Base Purchase Denied

PY041849 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] A newspaper from the capital reported today that Brazil has purchased a Polish base in the Antarctic. Reporter (Maria Filha) has checked this report further.

[Begin (Maria Filha) recording] Radio Bandeirantes has interviewed Admiral Mucio Piragibe, of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Sea Resources.

[Question] Admiral, is it true that Brazil has already purchased a Polish base in the Antarctic?

[Answer] No. Brazil has not purchased a base. Brazil is seeking an understanding with Poland to establish the possibility of purchasing a Polish research ship. This is in the interest of Brazil, and would take advantage of the trade surplus, which is favorable to Brazil.

Regarding the Polish Arctowski base, there are great prospects for cooperation with Poland, taking into account the fact that Brazil will participate in the Biomass Program [words indistinct] and this Arctowski base is a support base for this research. There is the possibility that Poland will yield this base, or part of this base, to Brazil. There are also good prospects for Poland to build a base for Brazil near the Arctowski base. But, of course, all this will be the object of talks with the Poles from the Polish Polar Academy, and from the Academy of Sciences in Poland who have been invited to visit Brazil toward the end of April. They will come on 25 or 29 April, and will visit Sao Paulo. [end recording]

CSO: 3342780

BRIEFS

ABM MEMBERS RECEIVED--At 1630 today, President Figueiredo received at Alvorada Palace the members of the new Executive Board of the Brazilian Association of Municipalities [ABM], headed by ABM Chairman (Heraclito Rolemberg Guimaraes). On greeting the president, (Rolemberg Guimaraes) stated that now more than ever the ABM wants to play a role in the current situation, to participate in the discussion of problems affecting the Brazilian community. In reply to the greetings of the ABM leaders, President Figueiredo stated: [Begin Figueiredo recording] I am very pleased with your presence here in my office, ready to express your solidarity with my intentions and, at the same time, to offer the efforts of the ABM to cooperate in solving the difficulties the country is now experiencing. [end recording] President Figueiredo then referred to the national reconciliation cited by the ABM chairman in his speech. [Begin Figueiredo recording] Referring to national reconciliation, the ABM chairman said that (?political understanding is essential) so that together we can face current problems. And this national reconciliation must begin from the bottom, from the municipalities. We must seek reconciliation of the federal administration with political leaders. This must simply allow us to sit at one table to discuss freely the manner or form--I no longer say how to avoid the crisis, but at least to be able to face it with fewer sacrifices. [end recording] [Excerpts] [PY090159 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Mar 83]

CSO: 3342/80

NATIONAL INDUSTRY'S ROLE IN DEFENSE VIEWED

PY041346 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p A 3

[Editorial: "Development and Defense"]

[Text] The unexpected decision made by Argentine military officers that led to the Malvinas war forced other Latin American countries to review the latent possibilities for other conflicts. Naturally, also under study were numerous background reports on the arms that each of the countries in the region possesses, the arms ratio in proportion to their territories and the populations, and the offensive or defensive nature of this equipment.

Those opinion sectors interested in these subjects were then able to see how modest Chile's efforts to renew its armaments were in comparison to those of its neighbors, both in view of the quantity and the defensive nature of Chilean armament.

Recent statements issued by the defense minister bring new importance to these facts. Adm Patriocio Carvajal has noted the current importance of being concerned over the protection of our territorial integrity--something which is obvious in view of what is mentioned above--and he added that efforts in this regard should not raise any suspicions in other countries since in keeping with its tradition, the Chilean Armed Forces seek only to guarantee the defense of the nation.

Nevertheless, we understand why several sectors wonder whether these efforts are compatible with the present economic needs that are affecting the nation. However, the obvious question would be whether it is advisable to go ahead with the enterprise and thus acquire new debts when there are still other pending debts to be paid.

Nevertheless, the situation is oversimplified; in the first place in view of the prevailing circumstances in Latin America regarding the arms race, in view of the particular situation of some neighbors of Chile in this regard, in view of several pending regional disputes, and in view of the unexpected presence of ideological issues which act as catalysts in the last issue mentioned. There seems to be no doubt that Chile is faced with the unavoidable obligation of confronting the problem.

In the second place, like Minister Carvajal has said, it must be noted that since Chile is acquiring armament of a defensive nature, its expenses are much less than those of a country that is acquiring arms for offensive purposes. Moreover, a defense force also means investments that will result in more work for national industry and thus in the long run contribute toward achieving the reactivation of the economy. Therefore, in view of these facts, this is not merely a plan to renew national armaments since it involves several other works that will demand Chilean labor.

Moreover, it must be noted that national industry representatives, specifically SOFOFA [Industrial Development Association] President Ernesto Ayala, have asked national authorities to make every effort to see that the armed forces purchase as many national products as possible.

Those who are responsible for our national defense cannot overlook the fact that since the beginning of Chilean history the vigor of private activity has measured up to the level of the country's best military talents.

CSO: 3348/253

BRIEFS

GDR DECORATION OF ALMEYDA--Exiled secretary-general of the Chilean Socialist Party, Clodomiro Almeyda, received the "Star of Friendship Between Peoples" in East Berlin today, on his 60th birthday. According to ADN, the official news agency of the German Democratic Republic, the decoration was presented by Erich Hoenecker, chief of state and head of the East German Communist Party. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Feb 83 p A7] 8587

CUT DELEGATION IN PRAGUE--A delegation from the Chilean Trade Union Federation [CUT] met in Prague today with the secretary general of the World Trade Union Federation [FSM], Ibrahim Zakaria, according to the Czech news agency, CTK. Members of the delegation included CUT president Julio Valderrama, Secretary General Bernardo Vargas, and three other members of the foreign [relations] committee of the CUT, which will be 30 years old tomorrow. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Feb 83 p A7] 8587

SULE DECLARATION IN MADRID--Anselmo Sule, president of the Chilean Radical Party, stated today in Madrid that if the democratic forces in Chile took a unified position, there would be positive changes. Sule was participating as vice president of the Socialist International during meetings held by the ideological committee of that organization in Madrid. The president of the Radical Party in Chile stated his belief that the ideological goals of the parties should be set aside in order to find alternatives which will permit the country to return to democracy. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Feb 83 p A7] 8587

INSECTICIDE EXPORTS IN 1982--The first chemical insecticide company, built in Chile only last year, had total exports of over \$1 million in 1982. This was reported by Rodrigo Diaz, management consultant for that industry, which makes the product used in controlling pests in stored foods such as grains, legumes, dried fruit, leather, wool and wood, among other products. The modern company, which is a subsidiary of DEGESH from Germany and the United States, exports its products to 13 South American countries and extends to part of the Central American market. Diaz said that the company intends to penetrate the Brazilian market, as it presently does not operate there due to that country's strong national protection of chemical

pest control products. The manager observed that Brazil exports a similar product to Chile without any customs or tariff barriers to its entry on the domestic market. He said that with the intention of increasing sales abroad, the company is negotiating to operate through Prochile [Institute for Export Promotion] throughout the South American area, taking advantage of the marketing structure of that institution. At the same time, he said that they were trying to establish some sort of negotiations with Brazil through ALADI [Latin American Integration Association]. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Feb 83 p C3] 8587

ARGENTINE PRICE CERTIFICATION DEMANDS--President of the National Chamber of Commerce Luis Correa Prieto reported that some obstacles have been noted in trade with Argentina, after authorities of that country demanded certification of prices on Chilean goods entering that market. He indicated that such a requirement hinders normal trade between the nations, since our country does not have any simple procedure for such certifications. He said that apparently the only exception would be shipments of wine, in which case the Central Bank guarantees in the respective export document that the price charged in the transaction is the market price. Correa Prieto stated that the authorities must cooperate in the solution of the problem, through diplomatic channels as well as by means of greater ease in granting the certificates demanded by the neighboring country. In this area, he remarked that the business organizations are cooperating through the Mixed Committee on Export Development to overcome the obstacles, and that there is real concern among the authorities on this matter. Correa Prieto also expressed the concern of the exporting sector over the difficulties that exist in getting pre-shipment credits. He attributed that problem to the repeal of special margins of credit in foreign currency for import-export operations, and to the partial and temporary suspension of lines of credit in dollars by various foreign banks, due, he said, to the process of refinancing the foreign debt. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Feb 83 1, 2C] 8587

VIDELA MADE AMBASSADOR--By decision of President Augusto Pinochet, Col Ernesto Videla, head of the national delegation to the mediation process, was granted yesterday the rank of ambassador first class abroad. [PY240152 Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 16 Feb 83 p 14 PY]

DEPUTY AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO--President Pinochet yesterday appointed outgoing Education Minister Alvaro Arriagada as Chilean deputy ambassador to UNESCO. He will join Chilean ambassador to UNESCO Alfredo Prieto, also a former education minister, in Paris. [PY240152 Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 16 Feb 83 p 7 PY]

APPOINTMENT OF UNDERSECRETARIES--Four new undersecretaries were appointed in connection with yesterday's cabinet reshuffle. They are: Francisco Jose Folch at the Interior Ministry, Col Manuel Concha Martinez at the Economy Ministry, Sergio Bezanilla Torres at the Housing Ministry, and Col Fernando Hernandez Diaz at the General Government Undersecretariat. [PY240152 Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p 5 PY]

EXPORT OF FARM PRODUCTS--During 1982, Chilean exports of farm products grew by 3.7 percent, reaching a total of \$278 million, according to official figures published by the Central Bank. Fresh fruit was the product with the largest share in this figure, 83.7 percent of the total value. [PY240152 Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 17 Feb 83 p 6 PY]

CSO: 3348/250

BRIEFS

GUERRILLAS KILLED IN HUILA--Neiva--Six guerrillas, mostly members of the so-called Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, were killed in clashes with the army in the past 2 days in Huila Department, according to Governor Antonio Jose Villegas. The clashes, he added, took place in the jurisdiction of the communities of Simana, Garzon and Suaza. The governor noted that the armed forces were successful in the clashes, although the rebel forces appear to be stronger. He estimated that as a whole the guerrilla organizations in the department have at least 450 men. [Text] [PA091605 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Mar 83]

USC: 3348/261

BRIEFS

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER--Quito, Ecuador, 18 Jan (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today handed Ecuadorean President Dr Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea a written message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Doctor Ghali met with the Ecuadorean president today and had important discussions with him. Doctor Ghali, who is now visiting Quito, the capital of Ecuador, is part of a tour of Latin American countries after having attended the non-aligned states foreign ministers meetings which were recently held in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, also met with the Ecuadorean vice president as well as with the president of the National Congress and the chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee. The discussions during these meetings dealt with the role of the nonaligned movement and the importance of Egyptian-Ecuadorean cooperation in the preservation of the movement's basic principles and aims. The discussions also dealt with the problems facing the establishment of a new world economic system and the various aspects of the bilateral relations between Egypt and Ecuador. The two sides agreed on the importance of bolstering cooperation between them in the political and economic domains. Expanded discussions between the Egyptian and Ecuadorean sides will begin later today. A joint statement on these discussions will be issued. It will be signed by Dr Butrus Ghali and the Ecuadorean foreign minister. [Text] [NC181503 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 18 Jan 83]

LEGISLATORS VISIT EUROPE, USSR--Rodolfo Baquerizo Nazur, president of the National Chamber of Representatives, confirmed today, Friday, that he will travel to the USSR, Bulgaria and England from 26 March to 11 April. At the U.S. Ambassador's invitation, President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea will also travel to the United States in early April to meet with President Ronald Reagan. Despite recent local media reports to the contrary, Baquerizo confirmed that he will be traveling to Europe with four legislators: Liberal (Everado Mora), former concentration of Popular Forces member Carlos Falquez, leftist legislator Jorge Chiriboga and some other as yet unnamed honorable legislator. [Excerpt] [AL1846 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Mar 83]

OPPOSITION WALKS OUT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET DEBATE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 24 Feb 83 p 4

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, Feb 23, (CANA) - Debate on the estimates of expenditure in the 1.3 billion dollar (1 Guy dollar; 33 cents US) 1983 Budget ended prematurely yesterday in the Guyana National Assembly followed a walkout by the Opposition.

The minority Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) parliamentarians left the House after Speaker Sase Naraine ruled against their submission that the estimates had not been appropriately detailed.

"The standing orders stipulates that material presented before the House for debate be done in appropriate detail," said PPP front-bencher, Reepu Deman Persaud. "The estimates did not reach up to the requirements and as a result, my colleagues and I are handicapped and cannot effectively advance useful arguments."

However, Vice President for Economic Planning and Finance, Desmond Hoyte, in a rebuttal, said that during last March's Budget debate, he went to great detail to explain that there was no need to clutter the estimates with insignificant details, which would be of no value to members.

"What you want is to use the Budget as a tool of management and a tool of national policy," he said.

Hoyte said too that since 1979, government had initiated a new approach to Budget presentation.

BRIEFS

BAUXITE FOR VENEZUELA--GEORGETOWN, Guyana--Shipments of metal grade bauxite have begun to leave here for Venezuela under a contract signed recently by the two countries, the Catholic Standard has said. According to the paper, 1.1 million tons of bauxite will be delivered over the next three years at a price of US\$30 a ton. The first shipment left last month and two others are expected to follow shortly, the weekly paper, published by the Catholic Church, said. The contract for the delivery was said to have been signed by the Inter Alumina Company of Venezuela and Philip Brothers, marketing agents for the Guyana government. The Standard said both Guyana and Venezuela stand to gain significantly from the deal, as Guyana had a large stockpile of bauxite which it had been unable to sell, owing to the reduced demand overseas for bauxite, and Venezuela needed bauxite for its Inter Alumina Plant, due to start operations next March. "The deal should go a considerable way towards improving relations between the two countries," the Standard said. Venezuela has a long-standing claim to five-eighths of Guyana. [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Feb 83 p 7]

CSO: 3298/397

DAILY ANSWERS COLORADO PARTY EDITORIAL

PY072239 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Mar 83 p 10

[Editorial: "The Political Activities of the Military"; words between slantlines denote underlined as published]

[Text] We said a few days ago that unlike the old law, the new statute for military personnel does not prohibit the military chiefs and officers from carrying out political activities.

We noted that the political freedom now granted to the military must be subjected to certain limits. For example, they cannot carry out political campaigns or propaganda in the barracks, particularly if they have to appeal to the relation between subordinate and superior. In sum, this is why we criticized the political party propaganda that Col Alfredo Diosnel Zelaya, commander of Cimefor [Military Student Training Center for the Reserve], made during the Cimefor graduation ceremony.

The radio program "La Voz Del Coloradismo" [The Voice of the Colorado Party] has answered us through an editorial that was also published by the newspaper PATRIA on 28 February and that we publish on this page. This editorial states that Colonel Zelaya's statement "is completely in keeping with Paraguayan laws for both military and civilians." Moreover, the editorial adds that "it seems that what the newspaper wants is for military officers to insult their superiors, to rebel and to mutiny, to carry out coups d'etat and to go against order and respect." The editorial adds that "ABC" has no right to say who may or may not speak, who may or may not express his opinion." [quotation marks as published]

We will answer these three points, which we believe are the most important ones, because we believe that what is or is not true can be proven and because of the inevitable impact of the truth.

We did not criticize Colonel Zelaya merely because he made a statement that was not in keeping with the law for civilians or the military, but because he made the statement before a troop formation in his capacity as a military commander in an army building. If he had made this statement outside the barracks, in front of an audience that had attended the ceremony out of its own free will

and had he done so in his capacity as a private citizen, we would not have objected to the statement. We criticize the fact that he arrogated for himself the right to make a political campaign speech before his subordinates inside the barracks; and this is a right that cannot be granted to any citizen, whether civilian or military.

Moreover, it should be easily understood that what the newspaper wants is exactly the contrary of what is attributed to us by La Voz Del Coloradismo and "PATRIA; that is, what ABC does not want is for the military to rise against their superiors, against legal governments and against republican institutions. It is obvious that to avoid the above there should be no political campaigns in the barracks, if as La Voz Del Coloradismo said, the political freedom that the chiefs and officers enjoy allows them to carry out political propaganda and political campaigns among the members of their units under their command, it should be also clear that as politicians, and depending on their political party these same chiefs and officers may later abuse this freedom either in support of or against the government and the country's political institution. This will obviously result in the inevitable consequences of a loss of military discipline and the establishment of a deliberation body in military units.

These dreadful results would be avoided only if the political freedom of military chiefs and officers exclusively consisted of speaking in support of the government (as happens in communist countries). But if this were the case, we could not speak of freedom since by definition, freedom presupposes plurality of opinions. Moreover, this case would violate the essence of democracy and republicanism.

Regarding the political rights of the military, it should also be noted that the result and operation of the new system established by the statute for military personnel must be closely followed both by citizens in general and by the armed forces themselves. It is understood that servicemen do not cease to be ordinary citizens and that as such they have the inherent rights of any ordinary citizen. But at the same time, there are the moral guidelines of the armed forces, which demand the upholding of certain indispensable rules to protect the armed forces as a national institution.

Moreover, ABC is no one /to state/ who may or may not speak; but as everyone is entitled to in a democracy, ABC can /indeed/ express its opinion. Therefore, in keeping with this right--which has not been denied to us by La Voz Del Coloradismo--we reproduce the quote of Franklin D. Roosevelt that was recalled in the radio program: "Man has the right to freedom of speech and expression; freedom to worship God, each one as he pleases; freedom to live free from misery; and freedom to live without fear."

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION POLICY CRITICIZED

PY050106 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 28 Feb 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Isolation"]

[Excerpts] Through diverse channels and means an observer can perceive the increasing isolation the national government has been experiencing in its foreign policy.

This does not mean necessarily that the country is being isolated. Today's world is precisely characterized by growing interrelationship. There is simply a vacuum which will increasingly affect the country in several ways.

As a rule, the U.S. press only pays attention to our country to emphasize our evident shortcomings and failures which today can no longer be disguised behind anachronistic positions.

Similarly, one can also notice a busy, active international campaign which has been flooding newspaper offices with letters, requests, information on exiles or others who, for reasons which are never explained, are actually or allegedly receiving illegal treatment.

Reports on our country which cite remarks by persons or groups who oppose the current regime have been gradually and increasingly--and no doubt much more effectively than the sporadic and virtually nonexistent action of our foreign service officials--gaining space in the international press.

All this is obviously not occurring haphazardly. Anyone can realize that our country has absolutely no public information policy.

On the domestic front, it is difficult and often impossible to obtain information from reliable sources or to find officials who would assume responsibility for the dissemination of news and events which are of interest to the entire country, not only to some individuals.

And if these difficulties are occurring on the domestic front, what can we say about the international front? Our complete silence contributes to giving credence to any report on our country, no matter how distorted it may be, and perhaps the more unrealistic, the more credible.

This is certainly damaging the country but it is damaging the government even more and this is something else. The vacuum resulting from the lack of a public information policy is being occupied by persons or organizations opposed to the government and whose voices are being heard worldwide, thus presenting a biased, unofficial representation of the country.

If all that was involved were just an innocent game of disseminating reports, then we would not have any reason to worry. But this is not the case. All this is shaping the image of both the country and the government and will ultimately influence our standing in international forums and multilateral organizations.

Like any developing country, our country needs foreign credit and technical assistance. It is not self-sufficient at all. And to the extent to which its image deteriorates it will have much less chance to get them. Furthermore, it is a fact that there are now serious conditions supervised by the congresses of those countries giving this type of assistance, congresses which are extremely sensitive to any report on human rights issues, the favorite subject used to discredit our institutions.

Furthermore, a sweeping trend toward restoring constitutional rule is observed throughout the continent. We cannot ride against this trend unless we want to run the risk of being isolated due to our failures and silence.

It is of course difficult to take more effective action in this field since it is always easier to turn a blind eye to reality. Yet a decision to take such an action could be made when it is already too late, when the damage is already irreversible. The government will then no longer have any opportunity to have its voice heard by the international public through a substantive, intense participation in international forums and organizations.

BRIEFS

JANUARY INFLATION RATE--The National Statistics Institute reports that the inflation rate reached 7.6 percent during January 1983, which is the highest figure in the past few years. [PY122357 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 2 Feb 83 p 1 PY]

JAEM DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED--General Carlos Briceno Zeballos, president of the Armed Forces Joint Command and army commander general, has recognized Read Adm Fernando Roca Alzamora as director of the Institute of Advanced Military Studies. [Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 4 Feb 83 p 16 PY]

IDB GRANTS LOAN--Lima, 30 Jan (LATIN-REUTER)--The agriculture minister reported on 30 January that the IDB has granted a \$50 million loan to Peru for financing small irrigation projects in Jaen, San Ignacio and Bagua. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2007 GMT 30 Jan 83 PY]

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS DONATION--(Maria Jesus Castaneda Pardo), vice president of the Peruvian Red Cross has reported that the International Red Cross has donated \$125,000, approximately 136 million soles, for the affected areas of Tumbes and Piura. [Lima Radio America in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 83 PY]

END 311512Z

1983 SUGAR HARVEST UNDER WAY DESPITE UNION-GOVERNMENT DISPUTE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Feb 83 p 2

[Text]

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, Monday, (CANA) — Harvesting of St. Kitts-Nevis 1983 sugar crop started today, with the Government and trade unionist differing on the level of workers participation.

St. Kitts-Nevis Premier, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds said, "The position for the first day of the crop was very much as is customary for the first day of any crop.

"In fact, the worker turn-out across the island was a little better today than it was on the first day of crop last year, and in the lone sugar factory I understand that there was a 100 per cent turn-out of workers, so I would say that things are proceeding normally.

But Opposition Leader, who heads the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union, said "In normal times, there are about 1 300 cutters in the sugar harvest. The turn-out today numbered very little more, if any more, than 150.

"That is a very small proportion indeed, and certainly they could not produce

enough work to turn the mills at the factory."

The union has been urging its members not to turn out for work because of a pay dispute. The union wants a 10 per cent wage hike for its members in the sugar industry, but on February 3 Premier Simmonds made a final take-it-or-leave-it pay increase offer of one and a half per cent.

Besides the one-and-a-half per cent pay hike, the Premier announced a two per cent end of crop bonus, and a two per cent "dull season bonus to cane cutters based on their production.

Dr. Simmonds also said that sugar industry could not afford at this time to pay workers a traditional bonus known as "goat water" before the start of this year's crop.

The union has rejected this stand.

The union has proposed an eight per cent "goat water" bonus, a five per cent end-of-crop bonus, a five per cent "dull season" bonus and an eight per cent Christmas bonus.

BRIEFS

AID FOR LIVESTOCK--St. Vincent and the Grenadines is to benefit from a EC \$1.1 million assistance package to the islands livestock industry, the European economic community (EEC) mission in Barbados announced yesterday. Mr. Joannes Ter Haar, Delegate of the Commission of the European Communities in Barbados, said the project will be financed by an EEC grant. The main objectives of the project are to assist the Government to establish a livestock development centre at Diamond Dairy. The centre will serve to provide cross bred dairy cattle and improve breeding stock among small holder dairy farmers who will be the beneficiaries of this project in the first instance. The project will also provide for the training of local personnel and will establish a revolving fund in order that small farmers may purchase equipment and necessary inputs for fodder and pasture production, Mr. Ter Harr said. In the long term the project is intended to generate foreign exchange savings in that there will be increased milk production, which will reduce St. Vincent's dependence on imported milk and milk products. [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Feb 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/398

SITAL ON HORB'S DEATH, FUTURE COURSE OF REVOLUTION

Rotterdam NRC/ HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 21 Feb 83 p 5

[Interview with Badrissimein Sital, Suriname minister of health, by Greg Chamberlain: "Sital: A Leap Forward in Suriname"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 21 Feb--Sergeant Major Badrissimein Sital is the Suriname minister of health and the most prominent ideologue among the military leaders. He claims that the death of Major Roy Horb--second in command--has brought an end to the "aimlessness" of the Suriname revolution. It was due to this aimlessness, he claims, that the revolution was unable to gain a mass following in the past 3 years. We spoke with Sital, the chairman of the military cadre which engineered the February 1980 coup d'etat, in the mobile headquarters of the People's Mobilization, a few meters from the luxurious Hotel Torarika in Paramaribo. Sital states that the suriname revolution--thus far on a rather bewildering course--will now be able to take a might leap forward.

[Question] What were the reactions to the December murders and to the death of Major Horb?

[Sital] No one asks about them at our meetings in the countryside. The masses are not interested. The people are now more clearly aware of what is actually going on in Suriname. Horb never had any kind of following. Surinamers don't think much of people who use foul language. The people thought that he was a part of the revolution because he was continuously around Bouterse. But that was not the case. The direction of the revolution has now become clearer. The representatives of the International Red Cross who came here to investigate the situation and also the Horb business have said that everything is normal.

[Question] But military officers like Paul Bhagwandas, who is supposed to have played a major role in the executions of 8 December, and Artie Corre are regarded by some as fierce reactionaries who perhaps could be a danger in the future.

[Sital] I have known these two men for a long time. They are now undergoing a rapid ideological development.

[Question] What are the priorities at this moment?

[Sital] One of the most important problems is that we have had a revolution in reverse up to now. We were unable to establish broad support among the masses or form a broadbased party, although we have made a start. Very soon now, we will set up popular organizations. The Advisory Council, the Revolutionary Front and other organizations will not be revived. Nor will the Council of Ministers become the chief governing body.

But it will still take at least another year before we will be able to announce our constitutional plans. Thus far, we have 120 people's committees, 50 to 55 regional and 12 district committees. They do not yet have any authority, but are simply assigned to teach. They work together with district commissars and ministers.

[Question] Bouterse put you and other radicals in prison in August 1980. How do you explain this change?

[Sital] Bouterse has quickly matured politically since our arrest when the reactionary forces were too strong. He is now supervising the build up of the people's militia, presently about 50-men strong. Hostile propaganda has made this a delicate public matter, and we must be extremely cautious as we begin work.

[Question] Do you think there is a role in the revolution for Fred Derby, leader of the trade union C-47 and one of your critics on the Left?

[Sital] Derby has no choice. Only the revolution can help him, not the foreign enterprises. We don't know how we stand with him so far. He always tried to strike a compromise and has never really committed himself to the revolution. He would like to see his fraction of the PNR [expansion unknown] join the government coalition. But we don't need new Center people for the new government.

[Question] What is the status of the People's Party of Rubin Lie Pauw Sam, who no longer is the staunch supporter of the military he once was?

[Sital] They are working for the CIA. They had close contacts with the American diplomats Laroche and Donovan, whom we expelled.

[Question] What is your opinion about the suspension of Dutch development aid?

[Sital] We place no priority on the restoration of this aid, although it is rightfully due Suriname. People were afraid at first, but our projects in progress are not jeopardized. The problems can be solved. The Dutch technicians were not indispensable. At the beginning of last month, Colombia granted us \$20 million in credit, and we might get credit in the form of

technical assistance from Venezuela as well. In spite of our problems, we were able to begin projects last year for the improvement of housing, health, social services, transport and rice farming. Even the private sector, Kersten for example (a major trade enterprise, ed.), is taking a positive attitude.

[Question] Your Caribbean ally, Grenada, is reported to be angry that the party was associated with the murders and to consider it damaging to the reputation of the Left in the area. How did you react to this?

[Sital] They were not accurately informed about the events. We sent someone to explain the matter, and now they understand it. We didn't really do our best to defend ourselves abroad. We are handicapped by bad communications facilities and by language problems. But we have nothing to hide.

9992

CSO: 3214/18

BILATERAL TRADE TALKS WITH CANADA SCHEDULED IN MID-YEAR

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

CASTRIES, Sun.,

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO will send a ministerial team to Canada in mid-year, for bilateral discussions particularly relating to trade. This was agreed to by the Prime Ministers of both countries in discussions held here yesterday, before the official start of the Heads of Government meeting of the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada.

Prime Minister George Chambers, of Trinidad and Tobago, and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, of Canada, met for half an hour at a cottage at La Toc Hotel.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Chambers held another half hour discussion with Jamaican Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Seaga. Later, Mr. Chambers said the talks concentrated on bilateral matters.

He said: "Canada has agreed to our proposal that a ministerial team from Trinidad and Tobago should meet in Canada, hopefully about July, to discuss matters in detail, and hopefully of benefit to Trinidad and Tobago."

In an interview at his cottage, Mr. Chambers said he preferred not to be specific at this time, but added: "We had some very long discussions on the economic situation and the world economic situation."

He pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago was so concerned about trade, that it was agreed to send the ministerial team for discussions.

HEAVY IMBALANCE

Matters essentially of trade

would be discussed, he explained. The imbalance of trade between Trinidad and Tobago and Canada was very heavy, he pointed out, and said Mr. Trudeau had recognised this.

Trinidad and Tobago could export ammonia, steel fertilisers, methanol, rum and other products to Canada, the Prime Minister said. Nothing specifically was discussed, he explained.

The Prime Minister also explained that he had raised the question of air transportation, an area of concern "His biggest concern," he said, was the feasibility of an independent country being permitted to designate FWIA as its carrier, obviating the substantial ownership or provisions.

Prime Minister Chambers also explained that Canadian aid was not discussed at the meeting, but he pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago had been doing its own bit, which far exceeded what Canada had made available to the region.

With Mr. Chambers at the meeting were Rep. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives; Rep. Desmond Cartey, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Senator Dr. Basil Ince, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Reginald Dumas, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to Canada.

The Heads of Government conference began yesterday.

Commenting before the talks yesterday, Ince said that he thought that the talks were important, from the Trinidad and Tobago perspective.

He pointed out that although Mr. Trudeau would meet with all the Heads of Caricom States, collectively and individually, it should be noted that if one looked at the report of the Canadian Sub-Committee on Foreign Affairs, that Canada had been placing a lot of emphasis on bilateral relations.

CSO: 3298/410

ELECTIONS MARK ANNUAL MEETING OF PROGRESSIVE TRADE UNIONS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Feb 83 p 17

[Text]

THE COUNCIL of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) must be prepared to act "at a moment's notice" in defence of the working class. This was stated on Sunday by the newly-elected President of the organisation which embraces unions outside the fold of the Labour Congress, Mr. Boodram Jattan.

Election of officers was one of the highlights of the CPTU's annual convention which took place last weekend at the Transport and Industrial Workers' Trade Union (TIWU) Hall, Eastern Main Road, Laventille.

Mr. Jattan, first Vice-President of the Trinidad Islandwide Cane Farmers Trade Union (ICFTU), who will hold office for two years like the rest of the executive, said that the threat facing the working class would become more serious in the near future.

For the CPTU to act effectively in bringing a better day for the working class, it was necessary for all units to work together.

Winding up the convention Mr. Jattan, a former Member of Parliament, speaking about "perilous times ahead" for the nation's workers, said: "Members have to be prepared to respond at very short notice because the situation is frightening. 'We (the CPTU) have become the only stumbling block in the way of the State apparatus...'"

Elected General Secretary was Mr. Cecil Paul,

of the OWTU, who was President in the old executive.

Mr. Paul succeeded Mr. Michael Als, who did not seek re-election, opting instead to devote more time to his position as President General of the Bank and General Workers' Trade Union (BGWU).

Other officers elected included Mr. Mario Als (Bank and General Workers Union) Trustee; Glen Ramjag (National Food Crop Farmers Association) Treasurer.

Two vacant posts — Assistant Secretary and Trustee — will be filled at a later date.

The convention passed two resolutions on Sunday. The first condemned the management of F. Plan Limited for allegedly closing its plant on Carnival Friday. The BGWU has a recognition claim before the Industrial Court on behalf of workers of the company.

The convention condemned the National Commercial Bank of allegedly banning the BGWU Vice-President, Vincent Cabrera from its branches.

GOVERNMENT WILL NO LONGER FINANCE TELCO DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT will no longer continue to finance the development of State-owned Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco), according to Public Utilities Minister John Eckstein.

Minister Eckstein made this clear while commissioning the new TOPS (Traffic Operator Position Systems) at Telco's Nelson Exchange yesterday afternoon.

The Minister, who like Telco's Executive Director, Dr. Neilson Mackay, referred to the company's application for increased rates and charges, said Telco was fast becoming a success story.

He disclosed that the company's phase one development programme was almost at an end, and the ceremony was the first tangible result of Telco's phase two development programme.

"In this phase the company will put four new exchanges into service in the area stretching from Morvant to Chaguaramas.

"I have been further advised that this will bring, by August of this year, long awaited relief to existing subscribers in places like Port of Spain, Cascade, St. Ann's, Newtown, Woodbrook and St. James, to mention just a few.

SERVICE ON DEMAND

"Further to this, the company has given the assurance that it will be able to provide service, virtually on demand, to all subscribers living west of Morvant by the end of 1987."

It was an ambitious project, the Minister added, which required new technologies, new skills and talents for its workers and management, and not in the least, new attitudes towards work and productivity.

Recalling other strides being made by the company, Minister Eckstein said these were taking place at tremendous cost to Telco which was, at present, having its application for a rate increase con-

sidered by the Public Utilities Commission.

He continued:

"The increase being sought is aimed at making the company viable, so that it can obtain loans on the capital market to finance that much needed development.

"I may also remind you (guests) of the Prime Minister's 1983 Budget Speech, in which he noted that both T&TEC and Telco will be required, as a matter of policy, to cease reliance on the Exchequer by 1984.

"In the light of this, I want to make it clear that the Government will no longer continue to finance the Telephone Company's development."

What Government was saying, he explained, was that whereas it wanted the company's development programme to proceed apace, it felt that the time had come for it to become commercially viable.

Dr. Mackay told the audience he was willing to predict that subscribers in St. Clair, Woodbrook, St. James, St. Ann's, Cascade, Belmont, and the surrounding areas (62-2 and 62-4 numbers) would receive a new level of service by the end of September.

He said a large proportion would receive a proper level of service in August of this year.

Dr. Mackay continued:

"We expect no praise for this — it's our job to do and we will do it. What we do expect, though, is a recognition of our efforts, that the Telephone Company means business and is in the business of supplying a proper telephone service to the country.

"Indeed this commissioning shows the measure of trust that the company places in its subscribers — that we are in fact placing into service, equipment which, with our present rate structure, we can never hope to pay off."

TESTS SEEK TO EXPLAIN REASON FOR DEAD FISH IN PARIA GULF

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

~ THE CAUSE of a major "fish kill" in the Gulf of Paria remains a mystery almost a week after tons of dead fish, shrimp and other marine animals were seen floating in the waters between King's Wharf, San Fernando, and Pointe-a-Pierre.

Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production could not ascertain the cause of the "fish kill" although several tests have been carried out on samples taken from the affected areas.

A spokesman for the Ministry explained that the Fisheries Division was working closely with the Institute of Marine Affairs and the Caribbean Research Institute (Cariri) to determine the cause.

"The Ministry has sent samples for testing to Cariri and the Institute. We are not only trying to find out the cause for the dead fish, but are continually testing the water in the area to determine when it will be safe for fishing to resume. We are now waiting on the results of these tests," the official said yesterday.

Thousands of dead fish were first spotted off King's Wharf, San Fernando, last February 9, and immediately consumers were warned about buying fish which may have died as a result of suspected poisoning.

A team of safety and marine officers from Texaco was despatched to survey the area. Samples of effluent from the refinery were collected for testing. Results of those tests showed that the effluent was free of any material injurious to fish or marine life.

CSO: 3298/410

BRIEFS

ONR ELECTION STUDY--PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Sunday (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago's Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) is to examine the possibility of an "election alliance or accommodation" with their opposition political parties contesting the local government elections due to be held in April this year, according to ONR political leader Karl Hudson-Phillips. Mr. Hudson-Phillips said a lot of statements had been made by Opposition party leaders about consultations being held to work out some form of election alliance or accommodation. "I want to make it clear that no such consultation took place with the ONR", he said, "except on the matter of electoral reform. Therefore, no decision in relation to election accommodation has been made." The ONR, a relatively new party to the Trinidad and Tobago political scene, failed to win a seat in the 1981 general election the first in contested. Mr. Hudson-Phillips, a former Attorney-General said his party proposed to contest seats only in those constituencies where its local grounds had put up a candidate and also had the type of machinery at their command to "carry a proper fight" to the others parties. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Feb 83 p 3]

BEST REPLACEMENTS--PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Sunday (CANA)--The Trinidad and Tobago Senate seat vacated last year by the leader of the small opposition Tapia House Movement, Lloyd Best, has been filled by another Tapia member, Lincoln Myers, according to press reports here. And, the reports said that University of the West Indies historian, Dr. Brinsley Samaroo, a nominee of the United Labour Front to the Senate, has replaced Mr. Best as the official alliance opposition Leader. Mr. Best, an economist who led the Tapia House movement from its formation in 1968, left here last year to take up a Nations assignment in Central Africa. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Feb 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/399

CANDIDATE ARRESTED, CHARGES 'MORAL ASSASSINATION'

PA111655 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Report by (Luis Manuel Escalante)]

[Text] The order for the arrest of Jorge Olavarria, RESUMEN editor and presidential candidate, was carried out today. The arrest was made at the doors of the Congress after Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins had delivered his message to the National Congress on his fourth anniversary in government. Doctor Olavarria attended this event and once the ceremony ended, he stood between the president of the Supreme Electoral Court and the attorney general. There, pestered by the reporters, Olavarria said:

[Begin recording] [answer, in progress] to what the president has said. In matters of moral assassination I am an expert.

[Question] Why, doctor?

[Answer] Because there was an attempt at my moral assassination. And that infamous and unconstitutional decree issued by the governor of Caracas accusing me of disrespecting the image of the father of our country is a very dangerous precedent for all presidential candidates: an unconstitutional action and a shameful abuse by a government that calls itself democratic.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Because I am a candidate for president who has been served a warrant for his arrest and the president of the Supreme Electoral Court and the attorney general, here present, are the ones authorized by me to hand me over to the police.

[Question] Doctor, the attorney general is responsible for protecting the constitution and human rights.

[Answer] Here is the president of the Supreme Electoral Court, who is responsible for protecting the legal and clean electoral process. My case is in his hands.
[end recording]

CSO: 3348/264

BRIEFS

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES VISIT--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins will make an official visit to the Netherlands Antilles on Friday and Saturday. He will visit the islands of Curazao, Aruba and Bonaire. This will be the first time a Venezuelan president has visited the islands. President Herrera will be accompanied on his trip by his ministers, including the foreign relations and defense ministers. [Text] [PA250219 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Feb 83]

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